



Commemorative Program

*Celebrating the
50th Anniversary of the
passage of Title IX*





37 WORDS THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

On June 23 of 1972, President Nixon signed Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 into law, opening doors and removing barriers that once prevented people, on the basis of sex, from participating in educational, athletic, and career opportunities of their choice.

Before this, athletic opportunities for females were scarce and limited mostly to intramurals. As the women's civil rights movement gained momentum in the late 1960s and early 1970s, sex bias and discrimination in schools emerged as a main public policy concern.

Among other things, Title IX requires equality in athletics for things such as athletic equipment, uniforms, locker rooms, practice and competition facilities, scheduling, travel and expense benefits, the quality and compensation of coaches, publicity and marketing, and access to training and medical services.

Since the passage of Title IX, female sports participation at the high school level has grown by 1,057%. The impact of this comprehensive federal law over the past five decades has provided countless opportunities for millions of student-athletes that may not have ever existed otherwise.

TITLE IX

Trailblazers & Notable Contributors

TO WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS FOR GIRLS

Please describe how the implementation of Title IX and the opportunity for females to participate in athletics has impacted you in a positive way...



Jan Adkins – Official, 47 years

Title IX has significantly impacted me since its implementation. In 1974, Sun Prairie High School reached out to me to help coach a newly forming gymnastics team. I accepted the position and was able to bring my two-year old daughter, Tricia, along to every practice. It was a proud moment when Tricia later became a member of that same team that I helped to form and was a 5-time State Champion. Since 1974, I have continued judging high school and college gymnastics, which has given countless opportunities to young women, who may not otherwise have had the opportunity without Title IX. It is an honor, 50 years later, to see female athletes truly have equal opportunities. It is my hope that opportunities will continue to grow for all young women thanks to Title IX.



Andie (Varsho) Alexander – Athletic Director

Sports truly bring out characteristics that individuals do not even realize they have. Competitiveness, teamwork, how to perform under pressure situations, time management, and many more. This opportunity is amazing for any student, but to be able to support female students to have this great experience has come full circle.



Harry Babcock – Official, 42 years

When I was in high school the only sport girls could participate in was Track. Title IX has opened unlimited opportunities for young ladies and they are so hard working and dedicated to improve their skills in all sports it has been amazing. Having coached young ladies in summer softball and 7 year as a varsity high school coach I had nothing but positive experiences. I also have officiated girls Volleyball, Basketball, and Softball for over 40 years and my experiences have been nothing but wonderful.



Jenny (Lushine) Bandow – Athletic Director, Coach

I would not be where I am today without athletics. Being involved in athletics has shaped me into the person I am today and has taught me so many life lessons. I appreciate all the women who have paved the way for the opportunities I was able to have and that our females will continue to have in the future.



Janel M. Batten – Athletic Director

Without Title IX I would never have been able to participate in high school and collegiate athletics, let alone coach and become an athletic administrator. Title IX has meant the world to female and minority athletes.



Kevin Black – Athletic Director, Coach

The phrase 'wrestling is a sport for everyone' made an impact on me as a youth wrestler because I was too small to be competitive in other sports. Wrestling gave me a place to set goals and have dreams. As the sport progressed, it became apparent to many that the great things wrestling has to offer is not gender-specific. If wrestling is for 'everyone,' then it should be everyone, including females. I've seen wrestling change lives by giving individuals the opportunity to succeed and grow as men and women.



Liz (Reusser) Black – Athlete, 10x WIAA State Champion & WIAA Scholar Athlete

My participation in sports has given me the perseverance, drive, and passion to accomplish so many things beyond just my sport. Sport provided me a 'mini-world' to experience hardship, frustration, and failure, that has helped me deal with these things in a broader sense in life. I cherish the memories and benefit every day from the lessons learned.



Mary Blandino – Retired Coach, Current Official of 48 years

When I was young there were no sports for girls. Our participation was limited to cheering for the boys' teams. I was very competitive in intramurals and city recreation programs. Still I always wanted to compete against other schools as my brothers did therefore, when I began my teaching career, I chose a school that had started some girls' sports teams, as I wanted to coach. These teams did not have school or district support. We had constant fundraisers to buy t-shirts for uniforms and to pay for bus transportation and officials. Our practices were early morning or in the evening when the boys finished their practices.

Title IX had an immediate and profound impact on my career. The school district had to provide resources to fund our teams. Girls and boys shared gym time. For the first time I got paid for coaching. However, it did take many years of fighting and Title IX litigation before that payment equaled the pay the men received for coaching the comparable boys teams.

Now, as I still coach and look back, I appreciate seeing the benefits of sports which are now shared by all. Title IX has given women the opportunities to have proper coaching, allowing them to excel, and giving many the chance to continue their sport careers and education through scholarships. We have come a long way. Thank you Title IX. Happy 50th!



Jill Brandl Gurtner – Former Official, Wrestling Trailblazer

My involvement in wrestling as an official, coach and overall supporter has helped me develop many of the leadership qualities I use on a daily basis as a public school administrator. Navigating and succeeding in a very male dominated sport as a young female has been foundational for me in understanding systemic exclusion. I have committed my career to applying these and other lessons to create more equitable, just schools.



Doug Chickering – WIAA Executive Director, Retired 2009

The satisfaction of seeing girls finally becoming a part of interscholastic athletics following years of male domination thinking GAA, Girls Sports Days, and other events that prohibited admission charges and awards, was a sufficient alternative to what was offered boys. I have witnessed the development of girls' sports since the mid-1960s. Slowly we've reached a point where some semblance of balance has been achieved, but let's not be too satisfied. The 50th anniversary of Title IX does not mean complete equity has been achieved. Title IX was not legislated only to give girls and women the right to participate in athletics, but such participation has given the Act its visibility and identity. No other benefited class can match that!



Todd Clark – WIAA Communications Director

What I've been able to witness and enjoy is the growth of girls' and women's sports, and the opportunity to receive the benefits in participating in education-based athletics. All of us, with our own personal experiences or through family and friends having participated, have experienced the positive rewards from participation in sports.



Helen E. Culliney – Official, 47 years

Title IX has given the opportunity to so many high school girls to compete in high school athletics. It is all about equal opportunity to participate.



Vickie Dahl – Athletic Director

I am thankful for the implementation of Title IX because it allowed me to compete in athletics at the high school and college level in the late 70's and early 80's. This is my 33rd year as an Athletic Director. This position has allowed me to witness first hand the growth of girls athletic programs in Wisconsin. I'm excited to participate in this celebration and be able to watch the first ever WIAA State Girls Wrestling Tournament!



Barbara Deichl – Retired Athletic Director, First Female WADA President

When I was in high school, the only 'sporting events' I completed in were play days and AFGA-girls athletics on Tuesdays after school at my own high school. I did play three sports in college and was excited to have that opportunity! I started coaching in the high school in 1975-76 and it was exciting to see the girls compete with other schools. And, to have a state tournament for them was even better!



Debra Dinkel – WIAA Associate Director, Retired 2018

The implementation of Title IX provided girls in the 70's with the opportunity to participate in sports. It allowed me to participate in high school and college sports, coach high school girls sports and eventually administrate high school sports for both boys and girls on an equal basis. While my high school sports participation did not equate equally with boys sports, we now see that boys and girls programs are treated equally and provided with the same opportunities. Without Title IX one has to wonder if that would have occurred.

TRAILBLAZERS & NOTABLE CONTRIBUTORS



Mel Dow – WIAA Associate Director

As a college wrestler, I was fortunate to share the mat with a teammate that provided the catalyst for where we are today. Jackie Berube was a pioneer in women's wrestling as the first known female collegiate wrestler while at UW-La Crosse. While she deserved the right to chase the same passion, she earned the respect in a culture that was not quite ready for what was yet to come. To this day, I am thankful for not only the opportunity to have been her teammate but that UW-La Crosse provided all of us a greater lesson in the appreciation that any athlete who is willing to compete deserves that right.



Pam (Rogers) Foegeen – WIAA Gender At-Large Representative, 2012-18, NFHS Board of Directors, 2016-20

As a high school athlete in the 70's there were no opportunities for me to compete other than in our Girls Athletic Association. When our oldest was in high school WIAA sponsored both girls and boys state competitions in different events. Our daughter was a pole vaulter and her senior year the WIAA had made a decision not to include that event in state competition due to safety concerns for young women. With the assistance of the school female athletic director, our daughter researched and presented information that proved otherwise. As a young woman in high school appealing this decision and winning the appeal would have never been possible without Title IX.

Watching young women succeed and the opportunities that were available for our second daughter truly show the progress that has been made. As a former WIAA board member and NFHS board member I felt Title IX was of great importance to our young females, not only in competition but in leadership roles that showed young women the opportunities that were available.

Now as I watch any athletic event I see a bright future for those that participate. Not only in competitions but in everyday roles that we have. From business to everyday life Title IX has made future possibilities endless if we want to achieve them for all women.

Because of the opportunities and positions held, I have participated in young women in leadership conferences presenting information from my past and the opportunities Title IX has given them. I also present on motivating young women to enhance their leadership ability and future hopes and dreams. At one time I was the only female representative on the board and was treated fairly, respectfully and with equal say due to Title IX.



Melissa Gehring-Loss – Athletic Director

Starting off as something I did for fun, my involvement in athletics has evolved into a career and lifestyle. Because I could play, I developed the character traits, intangible skills, resiliency, strength and friendships that have kept me grounded during my professional and personal journey. Obviously, I would not be an athletic director without the opportunity to play and coach interscholastic athletics!



Joan (Wanta) Gralla – WIAA Staff Member, Retired 2020

Title IX allowed me to participate in high school athletics in the late 1970's. Participating in high school athletics helped build my leadership skills and confidence. As an employee of the WIAA for 40 years, I saw the growth in opportunities provided to female athletes, coaches, officials and athletic administrators. I am very proud to have been involved in providing athletic opportunities for females associated with high school athletics.



Cora Griffin Dillin – Athletic Director

It has allowed me the opportunity to participate in sports growing up, ultimately leading me to a career that involves athletics.



Stephanie (Fermanich) Hauser – WIAA Executive Director

I am just young enough to have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in athletics my whole life, just like my brothers were able to do. However, my mom talks about having GAA as her only option, and as I grew up, she often reminded me of how fortunate I was to have athletics as an option. For me, the most exciting and rewarding part of Title IX has been the world of opportunity that it has opened for females to continue a career in athletics, whether it be as a professional athlete or on the administrative side of things. For my generation and for those who are younger, like my daughter, the world of athletic administration is no longer reserved only for men. Women have brought a new perspective to athletic leadership, which has enhanced the experience for all. Thank you, Title IX, for enriching our lives!



Jennifer Johnson – Athletic Director

Title IX changed the trajectory of athletics for women which provided me endless opportunities to reach my goals both athletically and within my career. I was able to learn how to play sports, compete and in turn earn scholarships where I was able to play volleyball at the DI and DII levels. Title IX paved a way for women to fall into leadership roles in arenas that were once filled with only men. I am proud to be one of few female athletic directors who have the opportunity to share my story of how sports and access molded me into the leader I am today.



Andrea (Zak) Kamin – Athletic Director

I am so proud Wisconsin has started to focus on the collective student body, and address the needs of different groups of students. The implementation of the Girl's State Wrestling is a testament of how we are trying to reach different groups of student athletes and try and make it equitable for all.



Michelle M. (Lukas) Kanipes – Athletic Director

When asked about the impact of Title IX for female athletes, I would have to say that there is still learning and adjusting and work to make things equitable for female athletes. This is coming from my lens as a teacher, administrator, athletic director, and coach in three different U.S. states. I have worked in Wisconsin over the last seven years, as an administrator, and athletic director. I know all too well that we can do better. There are still inequities not only in Wisconsin schools, but across the nation. We cannot deny the effects of inequality in collegiate, professional, and international women's athletics. Negation and complacency will only push things backward.

I am mindful that the inaugural 2022 WIAA State Girls Wrestling Tournament pushes the impact of Title IX once again into the forefront of people's minds. Throughout the course of these last 50 years, this singular legislation has removed barriers and obstacles that perhaps today's youth have not had to experience.

This January venue maneuvers all that Title IX stands for, right back into the public eye. Not only as a celebration of how far we have come, but also as a gentle notice of why we should never forget the reason this legislation was enacted. We need to remind each other we still have further to go.



Melissa Keyes – Retired Wisconsin DPI Title IX Coordinator

It's a thrill to see how popular girls' and women's sports are today and to know I had a small hand in making it possible. It was an exciting time I'm proud to have been a part of.



Tina Kreitlow – Athletic Director

Without a doubt, one of the most significant impacts of Title IX, and females' ability to participate in athletics, is the level of women in leadership we are seeing in our country currently. Strong, confident, independent, and level-headed female leaders are a result of women in sports. In fact, according to Inc. '94% of women who hold C-suite level positions are former athletes.' That statistic speaks volumes to the foundational role sports play for women in leadership in adulthood.



**Karen Kuhn – WIAA Assistant Director, Retired 2002,
First Female WIAA Executive Staff Member**

It provided me the unbelievable pleasure of watching girls & women compete for their school which I was never afforded the opportunity to do.



Carol Lamp – WIAA Gender At-Large Representative, 1991-97

1) by being able to coach girls in numerous high school sports 2) serving on the WIAA Board of Control as the gender rep for six years



Mary Ellen (Uhalt) Langenfeld – Retired Coach

Title IX opened the doors of opportunity for a tall, lanky, shy high school sophomore girl from Madison in 1972. She became confident and highly successful with her newfound skills. It nurtured her self image to become adept in the classroom and gave her the leadership skills to direct her abilities to her profession, family & community. It allowed her to coach and build programs for over 35 years for Wisconsin girls participating in volleyball. Now females are given greater opportunities to pursue and excel in sport and life and be respected leaders in their lifeworks and communities. Happy 50th Anniversary Title IX!



Keri (Kreinbrink) Lawson – Athletic Director

I was three years old when Title IX was passed therefore I never felt I missed out on anything. I cannot imagine where I would be today without the opportunity to have been a part of athletics. I was a three-sport athlete in high school which allowed me to develop confidence, competitiveness and leadership. Due to an injury I was not able to participate in college athletics, however that opened a new door for me in coaching. I had amazing women coaching mentors that helped shape the coach I am today. Today I teach health & physical education, coach volleyball and am also our school's athletic director. Thank you Title IX!

TRAILBLAZERS & NOTABLE CONTRIBUTORS



Deborah (Norman) Lepak – WIAA Staff Member

Girls in athletics was just starting when I graduated from high school. But my daughter was a three sport athlete in high school and played softball at the collegiate level. Now my 9 year old granddaughter is already involved in tennis and hockey. It has been a real joy being able to watch them go through the stages of learning and developing into athletes.



Megan (Pollack) Loken – WIAA Staff Member

Thanks to those who blazed the trail many years before me, I was able to participate in youth athletics since I was five years old, was a three-sport athlete in high school and now have a career working with high school athletics at the state-wide level. These experiences truly shaped me into the person I am today and provided countless life lessons, memories and life-long friendships that I will always cherish.



Debbie Malueg – Retired Coach, 37 years

Change is difficult and often takes generations. Title IX has been one of those significant change agents in society exemplifying itself in the first girls state wrestling tournament. This isn't about us! This isn't about complaining. This isn't about how unfair/unequal opportunities in life are. It is about keeping an eye on the prize. It is about building on the foundation of those who have come before us. It is about all of us working together making a stronger foundation and expanded opportunities for all little girls who will follow! It is about living life to the fullest for all of us!



Emily Mallek – Athletic Director

I was able to be a two-sport athlete in both high school and college. It then opened the door for me to continue my passion in high school athletics by becoming an athletic director.



Charlie Martin – WIAA State Gymnastics On-Site Coordinator, 1982-present

I was hired in 1974 to teach children with disabilities and to start the first Girls gymnastics team for Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids. In three years Wisconsin Rapids won the WVC Conference meet and the WVC Championship. Starting a new sport of gymnastics and being successful in three years was very special to the gymnasts. It was enjoyable to be part of the evolution of the sport of gymnastics in the State of Wisconsin to what it is today in 2022.



Steph Mathu – Athletic Director

I was able to participate in many sports in high school and competed collegiately at the Division I level at the University of Dayton as a basketball player.



Frank McCormick – WIAA Deputy Director, Retired 2002

The fact that females could benefit from and enjoy school athletic participation was known for many years and very limited participation was available but it took Title IX to make it mandatory. That hallmark legislation has played a huge role in the quest for equality which is common sense and so deserved. It's impossible to overstate the significance of Title IX and, unfortunately, the fact it was necessary. My daughters and granddaughters have benefited as have so many others.



Alexa (Piskule) McCauley – Athletic Director

As a female, athletics has shown great transformation with the increased opportunities for athletic participation. The implementation of Title IX and the opportunity for females to participate, has helped athletics make great strides towards gender equality and empowers females to pursue more. This has allowed females to reach their full potential through various avenues that were once unobtainable.



Judy (Oligney) Morey – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Iola-Scandinavia Retired Coach & Official

It gave my high school girls an opportunity to participate in sports and represent their high school as well as provided me a salary comparable to the men coaches.



Kassie (McGettigan) Mortimer – WIAA Assistant Director

Without the impact of Title IX, I probably would not be the person I am today. Since playing from a very young age, sports have given me an exercise outlet, a career, lifelong friends, and opportunity to meet my husband. The life lessons and skills that I have learned will stay with me forever and will be passed down to those I impact in the future.



Peggy (Robb) Mueller – Retired Coach, Won First-Ever WIAA Girls Basketball Class A Championship in 1976

I was able to share the wonderful, competitive sports experiences that I had growing up in Canada with the high school girls that I coached in Madison, Wisconsin.



Mary Beth Nienhaus – Trailblazing Athlete, Retired Coach

A great breakthrough for girls sports! Our practice facilities and practice times were greatly improved. More monies were allocated to our budget, scheduling of games improved, and overall recognition of girls sports was enhanced!



Jean Oettinger – Coach, Retired 1998

When Title IX was passed it had a strong effect on both females and males. All athletic directors were males, so after Title IX was passed a female who coached sports in a high school was given the title of Girls Sports Supervisor, to become assistant to the athletic director. Many females in high schools and universities became superintendents, principals and held other administrative positions. Prior to Title IX there were very few, if any, females in these type of positions.

Girls high school sports teams such as volleyball and basketball practiced in an elementary school or another place, rather than the high school. After Title IX was passed, these teams practiced at the high school, used regulation size equipment and females felt they were more equal to males.

People like myself who initially were present when Title IX passed in such positions were called "TRAIL BLAZERS". Title IX had a tremendous impact on many people.



Ella Olson – Athletic Director

I was able to compete at a high level in any sport I desired as a high school student—which I know was not the case for many girls that came before me. Title IX also paved the way for me to participate in collegiate athletics. I have always been surrounded by strong, female leaders. So much so that I have taken a career in high school athletic leadership and am able to make these opportunities happen for many more young women. I am so appreciative of the work and sacrifice that those before me put in to give me the opportunities that I had.



Alicia Pelton – Athletic Director

Title IX did not solve equity instantly but it opened a lot of participation opportunities for me to play. I admired my sisters as they took advantage of the few offerings available to them and by the time I was in junior high and high school, the doors were opening. As a student-athlete with ADD and learning issues, athletics were my saving grace. Without sports, I would have probably struggled to get through my classes to graduate. They gave me an outlet to socialize, focus, and develop many life and character skills that may have gone awry if all I had was the classroom. Sports also opened the door to college through running track and eventually playing basketball in the Swedish Elite League. As life continued, my love of sports grew. I continued to be involved with athletics, as a mother of athletes, team manager, PE teacher, sports business owner, coach, mentor, board member, club marketing director, athletic director, and sports equity advocate. With the opportunity to play, I was allowed to be true to who I am, what I love, and help others.



Kate Peterson Abiad – WIAA Assistant Director

My life as a youth, as well as my adult professional life, has revolved around girls/women's sports. I had the opportunity to play multiple sports in high school – and basketball in college..where those opportunities were not there in the recent past. I didn't know life without these opportunities. Title IX made it possible for me to be a viable candidate for the next phase of my life, which was coaching college basketball. I have seen, first hand, the opportunities for girls. I have also been a part of situations where inequities were addressed DIRECTLY BECAUSE of the Title IX directive. My teams were affected in a positive way – in one instance the Women's Basketball team had not ever been given the opportunity to travel on a foreign tour – while the Men's Basketball team was departing for their third overseas trip. A Title IX discussion created the opportunity for the Women's Team to go the very next year. This is one example of many.

TRAILBLAZERS & NOTABLE CONTRIBUTORS



Dr. Mary (Johnson) Pfeiffer – WIAA Gender At-Large Representative, 2008-12

As a young girl, I was able to participate in many athletic events and that then led to me competing at the college level. As an administrator, I have been able to initiate new sports and provide opportunities for young women. I have also been a strong supporter of girls lacrosse and hoping that will become a sanctioned sport. Creating opportunities, although indirectly, impacts leaders.



LeVar Ridgeway – WIAA Assistant Director

I reflect on the 50th anniversary of Title IX through the lens of being a girl dad. Title IX set the stage for my daughter to have an equal chance to pursue her love of sport unencumbered, an opportunity that my mother didn't have. While I am grateful that opportunities for girls and women in sport have expanded considerably, I think it is important to acknowledge that we still have work to do.



Tara (Kimberly) Rose – Athletic Director

Title IX paved the wave for me to compete as a three sport female athlete in high school and then go on to play softball in college. Being an athlete made a huge positive impact on my life through teaching me skills, hard work, determination, and improving my character and integrity. From those experiences in sports I went on to become a female sports coach for a decade and then became an athletic director. Title IX allowed me to do all of this and continue to provide opportunities for more females in athletics.



Jo Ann Schaffer – Official, 49 years

Without the introduction of Title IX many girls would never have had the opportunity to participate in sport. Some would have had very limited opportunities others none at all. Very few today realize the great opportunity they have to develop and display their skills. Title IX opened up these great opportunities for girls.



Mary Schradle-Mau – Athletic Director

Because of Title IX, I grew up with no knowledge of girls not having the opportunity to play sports. I was blessed to play any and all high schools sports I wanted. Our programs were adequately funded. I have since coached hundreds of girls who also have awesome opportunities.



Sheila Schulfer – WIAA Staff Member

I have been very fortunate to assist Karen Kuhn, Marcy Thurwachter, and Stephanie Hauser who have worked tirelessly to ensure that females were given the same opportunities/standards/expectations along with the many woman who assisted us as interpreters, coaches, and officials – definitely have made many friends over the years. It has been a pleasure.



Peggy Seegers-Braun – Athletic Director

I was one of the lucky girls who was afforded the opportunity to play interscholastic sports in both grade school and high school. High school sports had just been implemented due to Title IX. It really meant the world to me. I loved high school sports which led me to be a physical education teacher and coach and then an Athletic Director. I am not sure I would have followed this career path if I was not afforded the opportunity to play in high school. I have really dedicated my professional life to providing the opportunity for high school girls to participate in interscholastic athletics and have loved every minute of it!



Laura Selgeby – Athletic Director

As a student athlete in the 80's I was afforded the opportunity to participate in athletics. Moving forward to my career, I enjoyed a 25 year coaching career, a career in physical education and now have enjoyed several years in school administration. Throughout I have been blessed to be an athletic director and share my passion for sports with our students for 8 years.



Tom Shafrański – WIAA Assistant Director

I've had the privilege as a player, coach and an administrator to watch the pure joy of female sports grow throughout Wisconsin since Title IX's inception. It has been a pleasure to see the excitement in so many sports create the interest and following they have as the years have gone by. So many girls have benefited from their involvement in high school sports and then gone on, utilizing the values they learned from their high school sport experiences, to become significant leaders and take on major roles in our State and nation. I can't wait to watch my granddaughter participate in numerous high school sports during the years ahead.



Glenda Smith – Retired Athletic Director, Coach

As a high school athlete in the mid 70s I witnessed first-hand the start of Title IX. I attended the first WIAA Girls State Basketball tournament. As a coach and Athletic Director, I strived to make sure girls had equal opportunities, funding, facilities, etc. I have seen the impact Title IX has had over the years on young female student-athletes. It is just so rewarding to see the advancement of High School girls sports and the much deserved opportunities and accolades that have come about because of Title IX.



Brittany Spencer Grant – Athletic Director

I wasn't on the ground fighting from the beginning like so many pioneers were before me. I have them to thank for the opportunities I was able to take advantage of throughout my life. Without athletics, I have no clue where I'd be today. It's now my job to continue extending and expanding opportunities to my own children at home, and my students at school. I can only hope they are surrounded by countless positive role models who instill a desire to learn, grow and be better each and every day! Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.



Pam (Dayton) Steiger, Official, 42 years

As a freshman at St. Thomas Aquinas High School I was very excited for all the new opportunities high school offered. One of those opportunities was not interscholastic sports. I played GAA like my mom and 1000's of other young women in high school. I helped organize, played, and refereed games for the GAA at Aquinas. GAA was not enough. Some of us were more vocal and wanted to play other schools. In order to bring attention to our cause, we picketed our athletic director's office. Finally, in April 1974 we were 'allowed' to compete with the local public high schools.

Personally, playing sports was always important. Sports kept me physically and mentally strong. Sports helped me overcome living in a dysfunctional home. When college came along I played in my first intercollegiate volleyball, basketball and softball games while attending Edgewood College. During the past I have taught students for 31 years, 5 years as an athletic director and 42 years of officiating. Title IX has made me the person I am today. It enabled me to build connections with many different people and the confidence to take on challenges.



Jill Stobber – WIAA Gender At-Large Representative, 2021-present

I cannot even imagine not having the opportunity to participate in athletics during high school and college. My most memorable moments of both those times of my life were with my teammates and coaches. It is the reason for my career choices and my opportunity to give back to future female athletes as their teacher, coach, athletic trainer, and now athletic director.



Kaela (Huber) Swanson – Athletic Director, Coach

I have been involved with sports all of my life. Growing up with sports was great. It was fun playing baseball with the area kids. There was always a challenge to play in a good position since I am a girl. I became very good at first base, which carried over to when I played softball. I have always grown up playing sports with the boys in the school and after school. Growing up with the boys helped me pursue playing volleyball and basketball at the college level. Even though I am one of the smallest on the team, I was always the one who was banging with the post players for basketball and getting the middle blocks in volleyball. Being able to participate in sports growing up helped me grow as a person, leader, and teammate. All of those have now turned into a mother, leader, and coach. I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given in my life to play sports, coach sports, and organize a school's athletics and after school activities.



Marcy (Moely) Thurwachter – WIAA Assistant Director, Retired 2015

I was a freshman in high school (1970) when my school, Sauk Prairie High School, began girls' sports. I competed in swimming (3 years), track & field (4 years), and volleyball which was added my senior year. I was fortunate to compete in the first WIAA state track & field meet in 1971. The advent of Title IX and girls' sports meant the world to me. Being an athlete developed my self-confidence, leadership skills, teamwork, resiliency, self-discipline and so many other lifelong skills. Athletics truly made me the person I am as I went on to pursue a degree in physical education at UW La Crosse where I ran track for four years. My career as a physical educator and coach took me to the Sheboygan Falls School District (coaching volleyball, track, and some basketball), on to North Central College as an assistant professor/assistant AD in the HPE Department (coaching volleyball and track), and finally as an Assistant Director at the WIAA. Now in retirement I officiate high school track & field along with some college meets. The unique bonds that I developed with my teammates and athletes that I coached have resulted in lifelong friendships. And, most importantly of all, my love of sports brought my husband Steve and I together. Without Title IX I can't imagine what my life would have been like. I am so thankful for the opportunities Title IX gave me.



Donna Thomas – First Female WIAA Board of Control Member, 1985-91 & 1997-2003

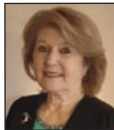
It has positively enhanced my career, my own education at the University level, my interactions professionally and in everyday life with friends and acquaintances, my work with young people, my self-esteem and confidence, and pride for the goals and accomplishments of young women. I am proud to be a role model, an advocate, leader and pathfinder. I was even proud to be adversarial, outspoken, and unpopular at times. The journey was not easy or always smooth.

TRAILBLAZERS & NOTABLE CONTRIBUTORS



Colleen (Morrow) Timm – WIAA Gender At-Large Representative, 2018-19

As a student athlete, athletic participation was a gateway experience that paved the path in life that I have followed. My choice of college, my profession, my volunteer work – all have been influenced in some way by the opportunities afforded to me as a student athlete. Title IX, thank you...for the past 23 years I have worked in a male dominated segment of my career field...it never occurred to me that I couldn't.



Deb Tork – WIAA Staff Member, Retired 2015

For the future of my granddaughter.



Sara (Petric) Unertl – Athletic Director

I am forever grateful to all the women who have led before me and will continue to support those who lead with and after me. I have gained so many positive life lessons through sport, and my professional arena, and I am forever thankful to those who paved the way before me.



Elissa (Balz) Upward – Athletic Director, Coach

I'm fortunate that I've never had to think about barriers, as the impact of Title IX has provided me with athletic opportunities from a very young age. Through participation in volleyball, basketball, softball and track, I acquired the necessary life skills that have helped shape me both personally and professionally. Through athletic participation, dedication, confidence and perseverance proved vital in earning my degree from UW-Eau Claire and accepting the role of Head Volleyball Coach and Athletic Director for the School District of Altoona. As a woman serving in a leadership capacity, athletic participation has enabled me to be a positive influence, with my focus in providing others with the latitude to take initiative in solving problems, making choices, being responsible for those choices and acknowledging the importance of motivation and having confidence in those around you and yourself.



Dr. Jennifer L. Vogler – WIAA Gender At-Large Representative, 2019-21

This law has tremendously impacted the number of female high school and college athletes participating in sporting programs. It has provided opportunities for our female athletes, to increase their access to sports at these levels of education. These programs allow our female athletes to develop high levels of confidence, resilience, and critical thinking, which help promote leadership in our world today.



Kelly (Courtney) Wallace – Athletic Director

Without Title IX I would not have had the opportunity to participate in athletics in my youth which would not have driven me to coaching and ultimately Athletic Administration.



Sandy (Pyke) Zastrow – WIAA Staff Member

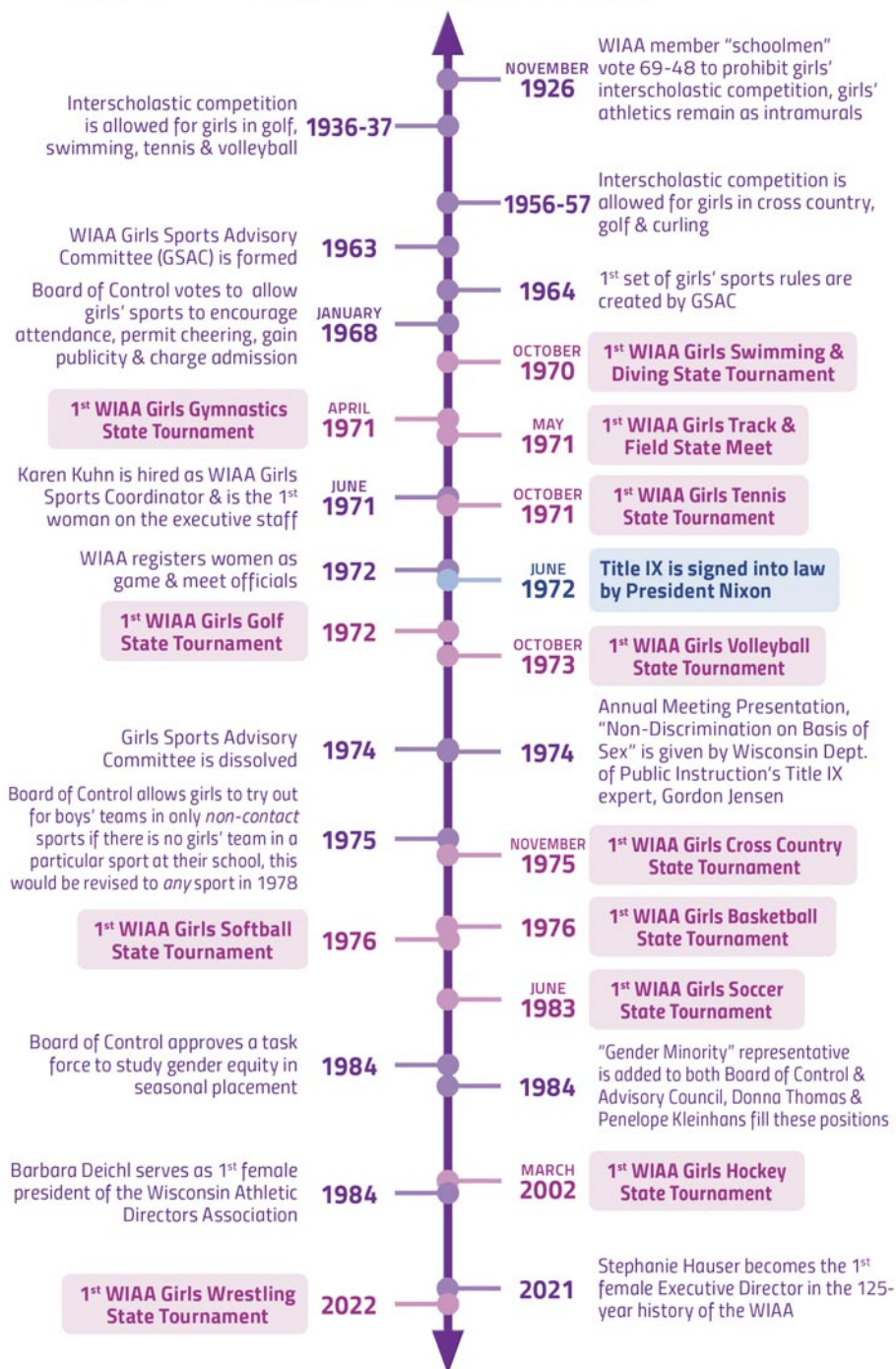
Title IX has given me the opportunity to help with the State Gymnastics tournament on several occasions. It's always wonderful to be involved with these very talented athletes and to see the hard work they do to get there. I look forward to watching these girls in the future.



Janell Ahlin – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Amery Coach & Official *(Deceased)*
Randy Allen – WIAA Communications Director, 1992-2000
Dave Anderson – WIAA Executive Director, Retired 2021
Joann Armson – Retired Coach, 39 years, Two State Titles
Gordy Bass – Official, 33 years *(Deceased)*
Ellen Brown – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Waukesha South Coach & Official *(Deceased)*
Karyn Bye – Trailblazing Hockey Athlete, Olympic Gold Medalist
Norman Dahl – WIAA Advisory Committee, Girls Sports Advisory Committee Inaugural Member *(Deceased)*
Betsy DeMerit – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Reedsburg High School Coach & Official *(Deceased)*
Jane Derlin – Girls Sports Advisory Committee Inaugural Member
Janis Doleschal – Retired Athletic Director, Organized the First Girls Sports Programs for Milwaukee Public Schools
Peg Ekedahl – WIAA Gender At-Large Representative, 2003-08
Betteanne Frokjer – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Park Falls Coach & Official
John Gallagher – WIAA Advisory Committee, Girls Sports Advisory Committee Inaugural Member
Lola Halverson – Member of the 1958 Girls Sports Committee *(Deceased)*
Diane Hanson – Retired Coach, 35 years
Don Herrmann – WIAA Associate Director, Retired 1998 *(Deceased)*
Harriet Jelinek – WIAA Board of Control, WASB-Rhineland *(Deceased)*
Dr. Gordon Jensen – Wisconsin DPI *(Deceased)*
Joe Jones – WIAA Director of Office Services, 1978-93 *(Deceased)*
Sue Kanable – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Monona Grove Coach & Official *(Deceased)*
Lindy Kemp – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Brookfield Coach, First Woman President of WBCA
Macy Kilty – Trailblazing Wrestling Athlete
John Klement – WIAA Sports Advisory Committee, Athletic Director, Official *(Deceased)*
Kay Krohnen – Member of the 1958 Girls Sports Committee
Wade Labecki – WIAA Deputy Director, Retired 2021
Peg Lamaster – Girls Sports Advisory Committee Inaugural Member, Division of Girls and Womens Sports
Alyssa Lampe – Trailblazing Wrestling Athlete
Pete Lohr – Coordinator of Athletics for Madison Public Schools, Coach, Official, On-Site Coordinator of WIAA State Tournaments *(Deceased)*
Shirley Martin – 1950-60s Trailblazer, Division of Girls and Womens Sports *(Deceased)*
Mary Miller – Official, 49 years
John Mulrone – WIAA Board of Control & Advisory Council, Girls Sports Advisory Committee Inaugural Member, Official for 63 years *(Deceased)*
Matt Otte – WIAA Associate Director, Retired 1992 *(Deceased)*
Joanne Price – Standout Swimming Athlete at First Ever WIAA Girls State Tournament in 1971
John Roberts – WIAA Executive Director, Retired 1985 *(Deceased)*
Kit Saunders – UW-Madison *(Deceased)*
Cynthia Schofield – Pioneer, Girls Sports Advisory Committee Inaugural Member, Williams Bay Coach & Official *(Deceased)*
Terri Schumacher – Athlete, Coach, Athletic Director, Retired
Ray Smith – WIAA Board of Control & Advisory Council *(Deceased)*
Ann Thomas – Member of the 1958 Girls Sports Committee
Mary Pat Thompson – Pioneer, Coach, Girls Sports Coordinator, Athletic Director, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, WIAA AD Advisory Committee, WIAA Coaches Advisory Committees
Gelinda Vescolanti – Member of the 1958 Girls Sports Committee *(Deceased)*
Sue Wasmuth – Pioneer, WIAA Girls Sports Advisory Committee, Oshkosh West Coach
Alice Weck – Wisconsin DPI *(Deceased)*
Gayle Wilfong – Fond du Lac Golf Coach
Terri Zeh – Official, 44 years



WIAA GIRLS' SPORTS MILESTONES





Thank you, to all those who
have played a part in
creating and preserving athletic
opportunities for Wisconsin
student-athletes over the years.
Your contributions are invaluable
and have made a difference in the
lives of so many.



Celebrate with us all year long & learn more about
Title IX's impact in Wisconsin on the WIAA website.





"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

