

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2019

Contact:

[Marlo Teal](#)

Interim Marketing Director
Dakota County Technical College
651-423-8268 (office)
651-356-4010 (mobile)
Marlo.Teal@dctc.edu

Viewpoint: Student Athletes Excel in Their Education and Sport at DCTC

By Michael Berndt, interim president of Dakota County Technical College & Inver Hills Community College

A few weekends ago, I watched the Dakota County Technical College (DCTC) Blue Knights men's basketball team earn a solid victory over Iowa Lakes Community College. The game was exciting, the players outstanding. The event reminded me how lucky we are to have a collegiate sports program in our backyard.

The DCTC Blue Knights compete in men's and women's soccer, softball, baseball, volleyball, and men's basketball. As a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), DCTC is the only Minnesota junior college where students are eligible for athletic scholarships.

Our teams, which compete in Division I and II, have some of the nation's top junior college athletes. The Blue Knights volleyball team advanced to the NJCAA Division II Region 13 Final Four in 2018, finishing the season with a 20-10 record, the best in the program's history. Our nationally ranked men's basketball team has advanced to the NJCAA DII National Championship Tournament the past three seasons.

We're proud to provide talented student-athletes a place to continue participation in competitive, intercollegiate athletics, while building their academic resume, as a pathway to move onto the next level.

Ellie Schneider played softball for DCTC, graduated in spring 2016, and transferred to the University of Dubuque in Iowa to continue her softball career. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in sport marketing and management and is pursuing a master's degree in sport management.

Not only do we help student athletes pursue their goals on the court or field, we also help them succeed in their programs of study. The athletic department supports diverse students with academic advising and tutoring. This allows them to take advantage of athletic opportunities while earning a credential that leads to a higher-paying job or the ability to transfer to a four-year college or university.

Keith Durham, an adult learner and current sophomore at DCTC, initially entered the workforce after high school. Keith was a talented athlete who had dreamed of continuing to play, but he was not able to attend college due to financial constraints. He came to DCTC where receiving a scholarship allowed him

to play while pursuing an education. He will graduate in May and plans to transfer to a four-year college to become a teacher and continue his college basketball career.

Robyn Rohr also found great success as a DCTC student athlete. After experiencing a difficult time going to a technical college out of state, Robyn enrolled at DCTC. She played softball for two years before she was recruited to play at St. Catherine University. Robyn says that DCTC acted as a bridge to the career she has today.

We're proud to offer new and up-to-date athletic facilities. DCTC has indoor and outdoor facilities including a wellness center with top-of-the-line exercise equipment. Our newly renovated basketball and volleyball court is located at Inver Hills Community College, and students have access to an indoor softball and baseball practice complex and three soccer fields at the Ames Soccer Complex.

Our student athletes also get to enjoy truly memorable and unique experiences, traveling throughout the upper Midwest to play some of the top teams in the country. Our softball and baseball teams travel to Florida and Arizona each year to compete during spring break.

The athletics program at DCTC is unique. It offers so much opportunity for advancement in both athletics and education for local students. We want you to think of us as your hometown team. Most of our current and former student-athletes will continue to live and work in our community once they graduate from college. We invite you to support us—come to our campus, get to know our athletes, participate in our events, and visit goblueknights.com to follow our teams. I look forward to seeing you at a game!

#