

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## Fan Voting Opens for the 2021-22 Lowe's CIIA Senior CLASS Award

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (January 11, 2022)** – Fan voting for the 2021-22 Lowe's CIIA Senior CLASS Award candidates is now open. Fans are encouraged to visit [www.lowesciaasca.com](http://www.lowesciaasca.com) to vote for their favorites among the 24 candidates from now through February 10, 2022. At the end of the voting period, fan votes will be combined with those of CIIA coaches and media to determine award winners.

The Lowe's CIIA Senior CLASS Award®, which focuses on men's and women's student-athletes from the CIIA, is a division of the national Senior CLASS Award program that recognizes student-athletes in 10 NCAA Division I sports. Last month, 24 CIIA men's and women's student-athletes who excel both on and off the court were selected as candidates for the award.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*®, the Lowe's CIIA Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages players to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as a senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

The Lowe's CIIA Senior CLASS Award candidates were nominated by their respective universities. Of the 24 student-athletes, all are in excellent academic standing at their universities and volunteer his or her time with charitable organizations and causes while upholding a reputation for positive character on campus and in the community.

Following the voting period, the male and female winner will be announced during the CIIA Tournament in Baltimore, Maryland and presented with the prestigious Senior CLASS Award trophy at the championship games on Saturday, February 26.

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## **ABOUT THE AWARD**

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award recognizes the CIAA's top senior men's and women's student-athletes. In addition to the core requirement that a candidate be an NCAA Division II CIAA senior student-athlete, the award winners are selected based on personal qualities that define a complete student-athlete. These areas of excellence are defined by the four Cs: community, classroom, character and competition. Premier Sports Management manages the award.

## **ABOUT THE CIAA**

Founded in 1912, the [Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association \(CIAA\)](http://www.theciaa.com) is the first and longest running, African American athletic conference in the U.S. and one of the most recognized conferences in Division II. The CIAA conducts 14 championships attended by more than 150,000 fans from around the country. In 2020, the conference celebrated the special 75th anniversary of its Championship Basketball Tournament - an event that has become a must-see in the African American community. The Basketball Tournament has been honored as a Champion of Economic Impact in Sports Tourism by *Sports Destination Management*, the leading publication with the largest circulation of sports event planners and tournament directors in the sports tourism market, for both 2018 and 2019. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, the CIAA is governed by the Presidents and Chancellors of its 12 member-institutions: Bowie State University, Claflin University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, Livingstone College, Saint Augustine's University, Shaw University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Winston-Salem State University. Chowan University is an associate member in football and women's bowling. For more information on the CIAA, visit [theciaa.com](http://theciaa.com), like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theciaa) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/theciaa) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/theciaa).