

Adams State Men' and Women's Cross Country/Track and Field Athletic Program Evaluation

Submitted by: Damon Martin, Head Coach Cross country/Track & Field

Criterion 1

We take great pride in the academic successes of both our men's and women's cross country/Track & field programs. All four programs have consistently maintained grade point averages over 3.1. On a national basis I believe that no other school in the country has equaled Adams States academic athletic success. Our programs have produced nearly 200 Academic All Americans over the past 10 years. Since the 2007 inception of declaring only one team as the National Scholar Team of the year The men's program has won this distinction 7 times and the women have won it 9 times in the sports of Cross Country/Track & Field. Our programs swept these awards this year in the sport of Cross Country. Individually our programs have produced 19 National Scholar Athletes of the year, only one individual receives this award per gender in both the sports of Cross Country and Track & Field.

Criterion 2

Our Adams State cross country/track and field roster sizes are consistently larger than the RMAC and NCAA DII universities. Our men's cross country roster is typically 35 participants and the NCAA DII average is 12, making us nearly 3 times as large as our NCAA membership. The women's program is typically around 20 participants and the NCAA average is 11, making our squads nearly double of the NCAA DII equivalent. In the sports of track and field our programs are also significantly larger than our peers. The men have a roster of 55 while the NCAA average is 31, and our women carry 35 and the NCAA average is 30.

In regards to retention and graduation rates we also fare better than the general Adams State University student. Our men's Cross Country and Track & Field programs have single year retention rates above 80 percent along with a 55 percent higher graduation rate. Our women's programs also have a retention rate above 80 percent and graduate nearly two and half times better than the normal student. I think it is imperative to illustrate that our men's and women's programs are amongst the most diverse on campus as well as in the NCAA.

I understand that the amount of scholarship received by our student athletes is higher than the RMAC and NCAA counterpart average. When examining the money spent towards scholarships for our student athletes I believe our roster size along with level of academic and athletic success completely justifies the money spent within our programs. I would also like to point out that our program contributes between 35 and 50 thousand dollars a year from sources outside the institutional budget.

Criterion 3

Compared to our RMAC peers, our program spends more dollars than average. I believe it is hard to compare the dollar amounts without looking at the total number of participants which is far less at these institutions as well as their overall athletic and academic awards and success is meager to say the least. When considering the overall benefit of the dollars spent versus dollars generated, our programs are in the plus because of the large numbers we carry on the rosters.

Criterion 4

I believe that our cross country/track and field programs have had a significant impact on our community and the San Luis Valley. I believe that we have created and sustained a reputation of chasing excellence academically as well as athletically providing a role model for our youth in the San Luis Valley. Most all SLV schools sponsor the sports of cross country and track and field. I believe that most people in the community take pride in the successes of our programs. We have several home meet competitions each year and these events are well attended by the members of our community.

I am also very proud of the community service projects that we engage in, we typically engage in four service project each school year. The two most notable project would be our partnership with the Stephanie L Minor run the has raised tens of thousands of dollars that has gone to starting a women's imaging center and most recently helped fund a cancer treatment facility here at our local hospital. The project that has been the most rewarding for our team is serving as coaches for our SLV special Olympians. Our teams provide eight weeks of coaching to this group for two hours a week, this practice time allows our special Olympians to meet the necessary practice requirements to in order for them to participate at the state level competition.

Our ASU Cross Country/Track & Field programs have been featured on many different media outlets, including CBS (NCAA championship features), CNN (Lou Dobbs), FloTrack (3 documentaries), Sports Illustrated, Runners World, Running Times, Channel 9 News, amongst many others. These media events give notoriety, positive publicity, and portray Adams State University in a very positive way.

Criterion 5

The programs have achieved some of the highest levels of success compared to any program in the country. Some of these accomplishments include:

Including all NCAA divisions (I, II, III) and all sports our women's cross country/track and field program ranks 20th all-time as an athletic department in total National Team Championships won. In fact our women's cross country program (17 NCAA DII cross country championships) has the most championships in any sport, for any school in DII history, and is number 4 amongst all divisions. The men's program is the 7th winningest program in DII history in total team titles won. The men's program has also won USTFCCA program of the year in its existence since 2008, which includes results from cross country, indoor and outdoor national team placing. Altogether Adams State men's and women's cross country/track and field programs have won 54 National Collegiate championships. The ASU programs have also generated a lot of positive attention through the individual accomplishments as well, producing 11 Olympians over the years, as well as nearly 200 Individual collegiate champions and over 1500 All Americans.

Criterion 6

I believe that as much success as the ASU cross country/track and field programs have garnered, that our best days are still ahead of us. We do not just rely on Adams State institutional funding to be successful, we currently augment the scholarship budget around \$40,000-\$50,000 in scholarships annually. As well as supplementing the travel budget \$30,000-\$35,000 per year through running the most successful running camp in this part of the country. The NCAA allows for NCAA DII institutions to give 12.4 full equivalencies to each gender per year, in our program we currently only reach about 75% of what the NCAA allows or roughly 8.5-9 scholarship equivalencies per year. I believe that if we can reach the fully funded level that our success would only continue to grow in both academics and athletics.