

LMC Honored with Allan Sharp Award

Written by Whitney Noble
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Lees-McRae College has been awarded the annual Alan Sharp Award for Conference Carolinas, marking the first time in the school's history. For the

2011-12 academic year 93% of scholarship athletes graduated within six years of coming onto the Lees-McRae campus.

"This is one of the highest awards bestowed by Conference Carolinas and we are delighted to be the recipient," said Dr. Barry M. Buxton, president of Lees-McRae. "I want to express my gratitude to every faculty member for their outstanding efforts to challenge and encourage our student-athletes. Congratulations to Craig McPhail, Vice President of Athletics and Club Sports, and our outstanding coaches and support staff. The Sharp Award is just another testament to the good things happening at Lees-McRae and we are blessed and grateful."

A total of six Bobcat teams, men's basketball, men's and women's lacrosse, women's soccer, and men's and women's volleyball, graduated 100% of their student athletes within a six-year period helping to boost Lees-McRae to the top of the conference. Softball, men's soccer, and men's track achieved a 90% graduation rate or higher in that allotted time.

"I feel this is a great representation for Lees-McRae," said McPhail. This award really honors the coaches, staff and faculty who have helped these young people obtain a college degree while pursuing the dream of playing intercollegiate athletics in a setting such as this."

The late Allan Sharp served for over twenty years as the Atlantic Christian College and Barton College Faculty Athletics Representative. Dr. Sharp championed the role of athletics as an educational activity and the importance of each athlete performing at the same level of excellence in the classroom as on the court or field. The Allan Sharp Award is presented annually to the Conference Carolinas member institution having the highest graduation rate among student-athletes.

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“Our attention to these young people and helping them through this journey of their lives is critical and I am extremely honored to know we have won the Allan Sharp award,” added McPhail. “It is a tribute to the hard work of so many in making our college and its athletic department one of the best overall programs.”

Previous Allan Sharp Award Winners:

(Archived records are missing for some years that cannot be confirmed)

2011-12– Lees-McRae College

2010-11 – Converse College

2009-10 – Converse College

2008-09 – Queens University of Charlotte

2007-08 – Converse College

2006-07 – Converse College

2005-06 - Queens University of Charlotte

2004-05 - Queens University of Charlotte

2003-04 - Erskine College

2002-03 - Queens University of Charlotte

2001-02 - Erskine College

2000-01 - N/A

1999-00 - Queens University of Charlotte

1998-99 - N/A

1997-98 - N/A

1996-97 - Erskine College

1995-96 - N/A

1994-95 - N/A