

SUL ROSS

Academic Excellence in Coaching Award



Nomination Form

Date	4/10/2022
Name of Coach	Rachel Baity
Title	Assistant Coach, Women's Basketball, and Head Coach for Women's Tennis

Justification

1. Please attach two formal letters of support written by either students or faculty.
2. Write a list of reasons this coach deserves the Academic Excellence in Coaching Award in the box below:

Rachel Baity & the women's basketball coaching staff is, by far, the most involved in promoting academic excellence. Here are some examples:

- **They host a recruitment day event for prospective student-athletes each year. This event has gotten bigger each year, and each year, they make sure that faculty are part of this event. This shows prospective student-athletes and their parents that academics is a priority at SRSU.**
- **They involve me, the FAR, in campus visits of new recruits. This, again, shows me that they are making sure that both student-athletes and parents see that academics is a priority.**
- **The women's basketball coaching staff is the only staff I know of that reaches out to the different programs to try to connect recruits with a program faculty member on campus visits. I know this because they have reached out to me for assistance multiple times.**
- **The women's basketball team GPA is consistently among the highest for all teams at the university. In addition, based on grade reports, several women's basketball players received "of the month" academic student-athlete recognitions this year.**
- **The women's basketball team had a successful season, with many ASC award recognitions for individual players. While these awards focus on athletic excellence instead of academic excellence, the fact that the team is successful both on the court and in the classroom as a whole indicates that the coaching staff has been able to help players find the right balance between the academic and athletic sides of their college careers.**

These types of awards usually go to head coaches. It makes sense because they are the most visible to everyone. However, we all know that it is the entire coaching staff that makes the success of the team possible. I know that Coach Novak and Coach Baity work very closely to promote their team's success, and I see Coach Baity doing the same for the tennis team as well.

Notes on the Process.

The Faculty Assembly will make two nominations annually. The Student Government Association and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will each make one nomination annually. The deadline for nominations is April 9. The Faculty Assembly will vote for the award winner at the last Faculty Assembly of the spring semester. Full-time coaches and assistant coaches who have not won the award in the last three years and who have been in their current position throughout the current academic year are eligible for this award.

Winners (Past Three Years):

2021: Katie Novak
2020: Antuan Washington
2019: CJ Aragon

Criteria for Selection:

1. Submitting nomination form on or before April 9.
2. Two strong letters of support, containing narratives of the coach's influence on both personal development and academic success.

Nominators may wish to consider the following when putting together their materials:

- a. Academic performance and retention of student athletes
- b. Participation in the tutoring and/or study hall
- c. Innovative approaches to helping students succeed academically
- d. Mentoring

Submissions including this form and two letters should be sent by email to Dr. Kathy Stein,
kstein@sulross.edu President of Faculty Assembly.