



March 22, 2011

Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee

Michael Gray - Class of 1968



Michael Gray has distinguished himself as both a collegiate coach and as a mentor to the many students whom he has coached.

Since 1996, Gray has coached both men's and women's cross country and track at Central Arizona College. In that time, his teams have won 12 National Junior College Athletic Association National Titles and have placed 2nd fifteen times. The NJCAA named Gray, National Coach of the Year six times - in 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2009.

Gray began developing his philosophy about school sports as a Roosevelt athlete, graduating in 1968. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education at Eastern Michigan University in 1973 and his Master of Arts from Arizona State University in 1980. In 2009, he was inducted into the Wyandotte Sports Hall of Fame.

Supported by Gray's guidance and encouragement, his runners not only excel in their sports, but also academically. Ninety percent of his former athletes at Central Arizona have graduated in four semesters and have moved on to four-year colleges on scholarships. One hundred percent of Gray's international student-athletes have graduated on time, and have earned scholarships to continue their college educations.

Michael Gray has helped his team members create opportunities for themselves. This was further evidenced at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China, where there were eight runners competing from various countries whom Gray had coached at some time during his coaching career. Additionally, during his tenure at Central Arizona, Gray has coached 29 individual national champions in four sports.

Prior to joining the Athletic Department at Central Arizona, Gray coached at the high school level. During those years, his combined win/loss record in boys and girls cross country and track was 167-31, including two State Titles. He has also served as an assistant coach at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University.

Gray and his wife Carole live in Tucson with their two daughters.