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# Tom Hickman Named Recipient of the 2017 Gary Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award

## Quick Facts

- The award will be presented during the association's Membership and Awards breakfast meeting on June 12 at the 2017 association's convention in Orlando, Florida.
- A longtime association member, Hickman was heavily involved in college athletics throughout his career. He is a former member on the NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet, the NCAA Division I Management Council, the NCAA Legislative Review and Interpretations Committee, and the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.



Tom Hickman

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA - **Tom Hickman**, retired director of athletics at Winthrop University, has been selected as the recipient of the **2017 Gary Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award**, the highest honor presented by the Division I National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

"What a great honor it is to be receiving this award," said **Hickman**, who served for 20 years as Winthrop's director of athletics from 1996 to 2016. "The fact that it is being given by my peers and colleagues makes it very, very special. It is indeed humbling to join the group of past honorees."

The award will be presented during the **association's Membership and Awards breakfast meeting** on June 12 at the 2017 association's convention in Orlando, Florida.

"We are excited to bestow our association's most prestigious honor to Tom," said **Ken Kavanagh**, chair of the Gary Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award Committee and director of athletics at Florida Gulf Coast University. "As with our previous 12 honorees, he is an individual who personifies what the award represents and fits in extremely well with the tremendous previous recipients. A valued contributor to our association's growth prior to his retirement, he served our profession with distinction for decades, most especially the countless student-athletes and staffers that he worked alongside daily."

The Enfield, North Carolina, native is a graduate of Wake Forest University, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1970 with a major in health, physical education and recreation. He also received his master's degree in exercise physiology from Wake Forest in 1974. While pursuing his master's, he served as a graduate assistant coach for the men's basketball program from 1970-72.

A longtime association member, Hickman was heavily involved in college athletics throughout his career. He is a former member on the NCAA Division I Championships/Sports Management Cabinet, the NCAA Division I Management Council, the NCAA Legislative Review and Interpretations Committee, and the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee.

Hickman also was very involved in the **Big South Conference**, serving on multiple committees throughout his tenure at Winthrop, resulting in his selection for induction into the Big South Conference Hall of Fame this year. He was enshrined in Winthrop's Hall of Fame in January.

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