

CHARLES GUTHRIE

Athletic Director, University of Akron

Guthrie comes to Akron from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where he served as director of athletics since late 2017. At Green Bay, Guthrie led a department of coaches, staff and more than 240 student-athletes competing in 14 NCAA Division I athletic programs as a member of the Horizon League Conference.

At Green Bay, his responsibilities included strategic, operational and financial planning; extensive external relations and fundraising programs in coordination with University Advancement; compliance and academic achievement; staff and coach development; and relationship building with campus and community constituents.

Under his leadership, the Phoenix garnered great success in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

Academically, Green Bay Student-athletes achieved the highest-ever combined grade point average during any semester in Fall 2017, recording a department-wide GPA of 3.40. Guthrie oversaw an athletics department that has boasted a semester grade-point average of 3.0 or better for 40-consecutive semesters.

In his first two years on the job, Guthrie oversaw numerous game-changing financial commitments made to Green Bay Athletics, including raising over \$1.2 million annually via the Phoenix Fund and Special Events.

In Spring of 2018, \$600,000 was secured to replace the Kress Events Center scoreboards and score tables with state-of-the-art high-definition video boards. Guthrie was also instrumental in a combined \$800,000 commitment that will help fund a renovation of the Green Bay Softball Complex, which is now known as King Park after its completion in spring 2020.

Competitively, Green Bay Athletics continued its success in the 2018-19 season, with numerous accomplishments being celebrated through the fall, winter and spring seasons. Five teams earned spots in the postseason. Volleyball led the way securing a regular season and tournament championship as well as a berth in the NCAA Tournament. The Phoenix also celebrated a pair of individual NCAA qualifiers, as George Kneiser of men's golf and Sadie Peterson of women's nordic ski represented the Phoenix in their respective postseasons.

The volleyball team was crowned the Horizon League regular season champions for the first time in program history in 2018, compiling an impressive 13-3 mark in league play.

The team also won three-consecutive matches in the Horizon League Tournament to hoist the trophy and punch its ticket to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2003.

The men's basketball team enjoyed one of its deepest runs into the postseason in program history during the 2018-19 campaign, as the Phoenix made a run in the CIT and finished runner-up to Marshall. A number of program records fell for Green Bay in 2018-19, including total points scored (3,090) and total three-pointers made (303).

George Kneiser captured the 2019 Horizon League Men's Golf Championship finishing 1-under par for the tournament and earning the individual victory by three strokes at the Mission Inn Resort and Club in Florida. Kneiser became the third golfer in program history to win the league's individual championship and earned an automatic bid into the NCAA Division I Men's Golf Championships.

The women's basketball team battled through adversity all season long and finished another successful campaign in 2018-19, finishing as the runner-up in both the regular season and tournament championship. Green Bay was rewarded for its success with a home game in the first round of the WNIT for the initial time in its storied program history.

Guthrie hit the ground running during the 2017-18 campaign. The men's soccer team had one of its most successful seasons in program history. The Phoenix had the best conference record in school history and secured the program's first-ever Horizon League regular season title advancing to the Horizon League Tournament Championship match for the first time since 2011.

Women's Volleyball finished the season at 17-16, highlighted with a quality run in the NIVC which included two impressive post-season tournament victories following a runner-up finish in the Horizon League Tournament. In February 2018, Guthrie was able to continue momentum within the volleyball program hiring head coach Abbey Sutherland to lead the Phoenix.

Women's Basketball secured its 20th-consecutive conference title and earned a No. 7 seed for its 18th all-time appearance in the NCAA Tournament with its Horizon League Championship victory over Wright State in March 2018. The Phoenix appeared in the NCAA Tournament for the ninth time in the last 10 seasons.

Men's tennis secured a berth in the Horizon League tournament.

Prior to Green Bay, Guthrie completed three and a half years as Director of Athletics at San Francisco State. During Guthrie's tenure, the Gator's program transformed into one of the premier programs in the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA), overseeing substantial increases in sponsorship, ticket sales, and fundraising revenue. Annual giving doubled during his tenure and Guthrie was also successful in securing a \$2 million gift, the largest one-time individual gift to San Francisco State athletics.

Under Guthrie's leadership, a five-year strategic business plan focused on Title IX compliance, scholarship enhancement and facilities improvement were created.

Facility improvements included over \$2.5 million in gymnasium renovations, softball field improvements, baseball facility improvements, team rooms for all indoor sports, and an expanded athletics training room. Additionally, Guthrie was responsible for new Daktronics scoreboards at Cox Stadium (soccer/track) Maloney Field (baseball) as well as the unveiling of the Don Nasser Plaza and the George and Judy Marcus Athletics Performance Center.

Guthrie has demonstrated his commitment to student-athletes, helping the Gator's 270 student-athletes excel in the classroom and prepare for life after graduation. Since arriving at San Francisco State, more than 200 student-athletes have achieved CCAA all-academic honors and SF State has maintained a 70-percent graduation rate. Additionally, the 2016-17 Gators had a record-breaking year in the classroom - 72 student athletes were named to the CCAA All-Academic team and generated a department-wide GPA above 3.2.

The Gators continued to build on its competitive success during the 2016-17 season, highlighted by an NCAA National Championship in the outdoor 4x400m and 11 All-American honors for the women's track and Field team. Additionally, men's basketball made their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1993-94 and men's soccer finished with their best league record since joining the CCAA in 1998. Women's soccer posted back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since the 2001-02 campaign. During the 2015-16 season, the Gators did not have a single team finish in last place in their respective conference standings, in doing so, San Francisco State finished tied for seventh in the Robert J. Hiegert Commissioner's Cup Standings, their highest finish ever in the CCAA.

Guthrie hired the winningest active coach in NCAA Division II women's basketball, while also bringing in Tony Schifano (baseball), Javier Ayala-Hil (men's soccer), Tracy Hamm (women's soccer), Alicia Reid (softball) Kendra Reimer (track & Neld/cross country) and Matt Hoffman (volleyball) on board.

Guthrie's vision for the Gator brand led to striking new athletic logos, enhanced social media presence and an all-apparel deal with Nike to ensure consistency of brand across the program. He brokered a deal with Comcast Hometown Network to televise eight home basketball double headers (women's/men's) reaching more than 1.2 million homes in the Bay area.

As a leading institution for social justice, SF State student athletes continued to be involved in community service projects that promote social awareness and access to higher education in the greater San Francisco community. Guthrie also serves as the SF State representative and project lead for the planned multi-million-dollar project featuring SF State, the San Francisco Giants' Community Fund and Major League

Baseball in a collaborative effort to build the Junior Giants Urban Youth Academy in San Francisco. President Obama announced the initiative in June 2015 when the Giants visited the White House. Guthrie served as a member of the NCAA Regional Advisory Committee for women's basketball and a Mentor for the 2016-17 NCAA Division II Athletic Director Association Women and Minority Mentoring Program.

Guthrie arrived in San Francisco after serving as the Director of Athletics at Clark College. He led the Penguins to exceptional competitive success across its 11 intercollegiate programs, highlighted by 26 teams advancing to the playoffs in their respective sports, eight Division championships, seven coach of the year awards and more than 60 student-athletes achieving all-conference and all-star recognition. During his time at Clark, Guthrie served on the NATYCAA Executive Committee.

Guthrie helped engineer a historic run for the Penguin's program in 2013-14, with 10 of 11 teams securing post-season appearances highlighted by five coaches being named Coach of the Year (men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer and baseball). Off the field, Guthrie's emphasis on academic performance resulted in five teams recording an overall team GPA above 3.0, with the men's basketball team posting an impressive 3.17 overall team GPA. Guthrie implemented a dedicated approach to roster management and led the program through a successful review of inherited Title IX infractions, including the development of a Title IX action plan focused on department wide compliance of Title IX guidelines with an emphasis on education and execution.

While at Clark, Guthrie established the inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame event. He completed facilities improvements designed to benefit Clark student-athletes and the community at large, including a new Softball Stadium, new scoreboards in all athletic venues and a refurbished basketball/volleyball gymnasium floor. In addition, Guthrie implemented a complete brand refresh and partnered with adidas to outfit all 11-sport programs with the Northwest Athletic Conference's first all-apparel contract.

Prior to Clark, Guthrie served as Associate Director of Athletics for California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), supporting the overall planning, direction and management of the CSULA intercollegiate athletic program. Guthrie was responsible for the Golden Eagles' external relations, development and fundraising activities as well as direct supervision of CSULA's tennis, track and field, and cross-country programs. He served as the department liaison to Associate Students Inc., the officially recognized voice of the student body at CSULA. He also led activities including the Billie Jean King & Friends annual gala, which resulted in more than \$200,000 in scholarships annually.

During his time at CSULA the Golden Eagles had unprecedented success placing top 50 finishes in the Learfield Directors Cup in 2005-06 and 2006-07. The award previously known as the Sears Cup recognizes overall excellence by an institutions entire athletic program. In addition, Guthrie oversaw a branding program that included new athletics logos and web site.

Guthrie came to CSULA from Cal State University, San Marcos (CSUSM), where he served as Director of Alumni and Parent Relations beginning in December 2004. While at CSUSM, Guthrie improved the University's contact with current and former students and more than doubled alumni association membership. He managed and doubled the alumni association budget.

Guthrie previously spent four years as Associate Athletic Director External Relations at University of California, San Diego (UCSD), where he developed and implemented the marketing, alumni and ticket programs for Triton athletics. He was instrumental in negotiating the school's all-apparel contract with adidas and served as tournament director for the 2001 NCAA Women's Soccer Championships, 2002 CCAA Conference Track and Field Championships and the 2003 NCAA Women's Water Polo Championships.

A 2004 graduate of the NCAA Fellows Leadership Development Program, Guthrie served as Director of Marketing, Tickets and Recreation Gym Memberships for the department of athletics at Columbia University in New York City prior to joining the UCSD staff. Guthrie also worked in athletics at Colgate University and the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC).

The Albany, N.Y., native earned his B.S. in Political Science from Syracuse University and M.S. in Education Administration and Policy Studies from the University of Albany.