

## CULTIVATING SPIRIT

"In conjunction with the University's commitment to the values of higher education, the Athletics Department is uniquely suited to creating both opportunities for diversity to succeed and a public forum in which to showcase those successes. Specifically, athletic programs that triumph are those that blend the benefits of diversity and inclusion of staff and student-athletes, with the power of the team's common goal."

— Steve Downing, Associate Athletic Director





“The objective of the Department of Athletics’ Committee on Equity and Diversity is to enrich the coaches, staff and student athletes understanding of the various dimensions and value of equity and diversity in the pursuit of excellence.”  
 – Judi Henry, EDD,  
 Senior Associate  
 Athletics Director

**ATHLETICS & RECREATION.** It’s how we play the game. Nothing brings people together quite like a sporting event. On the field, they engage in teamwork. Off the field, they band together in support. Whether a Big 12 game or intramural match, Texas Tech offers an atmosphere of community spirit where everyone is invited to play.

**ATHLETICS.** A member of the Big 12 Conference, Red Raider athletics is a source of great pride and tradition. Texas Tech hosts 24 club sports teams, including baseball, football, softball, cross-country and track, men’s and women’s basketball, tennis and golf and women’s soccer and volleyball. [www.texastech.com](http://www.texastech.com)

**DIVERSITY INITIATIVES.** The Marsha Sharp Center for Student Athletes supports the academic achievement and success of more than 500 Texas Tech student athletes.

**THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT’S DIVERSITY COMMITTEE** addresses personnel and hiring issues of the department and establishes relationships with minority organizations to further understand minority needs relative to student athletics.

Student-Athlete Academic Successes:

- Honored by the American Football Coaches Association for having one of the top 25 graduation rates in football for the 6th year in a row. The current year graduation rate is 80 percent as measured by AFCA (58 percent is the national average).
- The current graduation rate as measured by the NCAA is 77 percent (four year measurement 1995-1999), the second highest in the Big 12 Conference.
- Last year (2005-06) was one of the best years in Texas Tech’s history for the academic accomplishments for individual performance:
  - 340 awards for student-athletes on the Commissioner’s Honor Roll (3.0 semester GPA or better)—highest number ever
  - 103 awards for student-athletes on the Dean’s List (3.5 semester GPA)—highest number ever
  - 60 awards for student-athletes on the President’s List (4.0 GPA)—highest number ever
  - 60 student-athletes made their respective Academic All Big 12 Team
- Since the inception of the Program of Excellence Award in 1997, Texas Tech is now one of only 36 schools in the country to receive this lifetime award from the Division 1A Athletic Directors’ Association. Overall student-athlete welfare, academics, life skills, campus partnerships, facilities, coaches and administration are all evaluated in granting this award.