



**THE DRAKE GROUP
EDUCATION FUND**

Realizing The Promise
Of College Athletics

2023

Making a Difference Award

DAWN STALEY

Honoring an extraordinary contribution by an individual who has helped advance the integrity of intercollegiate athletics through an articulate and well-reasoned response to a current event or important issue. The individual, through his or her voice, writings, or other public action has demonstrated informed thought leadership in intercollegiate athletics, toward the end of advancing the integrity of athletics, emphasizing the primacy of educational objectives and/or insisting on responsible fiscal and ethical conduct of intercollegiate athletics as an extracurricular enterprise."

Recognizing your persistent, consistent, and intentional public voice that has made a generational impact on your teammates, your players, the college sports culture, and the general public.

You have used the platform created by your considerable personal coaching and athletic achievements -- two Division I NCAA National Women's Basketball Championships, seven Southeastern Conference regular season and tournament titles, a stellar 23-year college coaching career, and a 22-year all-star career as a college, USA national team and WNBA athlete -- to advance the public's understanding of the importance of women's sports, women in the coaching profession, non-discrimination on the basis of sex and race, and the primacy of education and personal development in the lives of college athletes.

Your personal integrity combined with your extraordinarily thoughtful and purposeful voice has demonstrated the power of a "servant leader" -- the exemplary graduation rates of your athletes who are fully prepared for challenges they face on and off the court, setting an example as a fighter for the equal treatment of women's sports, coaches, and athletes, and your model behavior as a competitor, always challenging others to give their best effort and aspire to achieve the greater good. We applaud and recognize your life's work as a sportswoman and educator.