Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (August Diversity Spotlight Recipient)

The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) hosted an educational seminar for administrators and coaches at the University of St. Thomas on Wednesday, August 9th. The two-session seminar, focusing on game day management and inclusion and diversity discussion, was attended by more than 50 MIAC administrators and coaches from all 13 institutions across Minnesota.

In the afternoon, Kim Miller from the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE) guided attendees on several interactive and engaging exercises to discuss diversity, inclusion and implicit bias through the lens of athletics. The presentation focused heavily on self-reflection and perspective-taking in order to improve race relations and drive social progress. Empathy and understanding played key roles in the afternoon activities, which aimed to educate administrators and coaches on the complexities of identity and provide tools to help foster a more inclusive environment for all back on campus.
Also, RISE facilitated a session Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) Student-Athlete Leadership Conference at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota in Winona. The 80-minute session for 95 athletes representing the 13 MIAC member institutions included activities focused on leadership, perspective taking and stereotypes. Athletes spent time discussing race and diversity-related issues on their campuses while considering positive actions to take on campus, in their athletics departments and with their teams to create a more positive, inclusive culture.
• Nonprofit founded in 2015 by Stephen M. Ross.

• Dedicated to harnessing the unifying power of sports to improve race relations and drive social progress.

• Led by an unprecedented alliance of professional sports leagues, organizations, educators, media networks, sports professionals and athletes.
MIAC Press Release: 
http://miacathletics.com/general/2017-18/releases/20170810qim5s6

Photos from RISE: 
https://www.facebook.com/pg/RISEtoWINorg/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1912610498755984
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