

Craig Rothenberger- Junction City High School 2020

Craig began his teaching and coaching career in 1969. After spending his first four years at Tillamook Catholic High School and the next seven at Nestucca High School, he moved to Junction City where he has spent the last 42 years. Craig has coached Football, Baseball and Golf but has continuously coached Basketball for all 53 years of his professional career. For 41 of those years he has served as the Athletic Director in the three schools in which he worked.

Craig served on the Oregon Athletic Directors Association Executive Board for 17 years. During this time he was the Association President on two occasions and chaired the state conference twice. He spent six year as a voting member on the Oregon Schools Activities Association Executive Board representing the Oregon Athletic Directors Association and was the Co-Executive Director of the OADA from 2016-2019.

Craig has been a presenter and taught classes at the Oregon State Athletic Director Conference on several occasions and directed numerous high school athletic events during his career. Those include Director and Co-Director of the Coaches Association All Star basketball Series for 15 years and hosting numerous district and state events at his school.

Craig was recognized as 3A Athletic Director of the Year in 1998, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Northwest Sectional Boys Basketball Coach of the Year in 2003 and National Boys Basketball Coach of the Year in 2012. His teams won the OSAA State Championship in 1994 and finished second in 2004. Craig was also awarded the Oregon Sports Award Game Changer Award in 2013, the Oregon High School Coaches Associations first annual "Coaching with Character Award" in 2015 and the Dave Johnson Contributor Award in 2019. In 2015, Craig received the NFHS Citation Award and in 2018 received the Oregon Athletic Directors Association Jim Rotramel Lifetime Service Award.

Craig has initiated numerous school programs to assist athletes and provide opportunities for Junction City youth. He launched the Junction City High School Core Value Program in 2010 and it has been a valuable addition to the educational process. This program includes core value presenters to Junction City athletes every two weeks during the school year along with ongoing encouragement, support and recognition for coaches and athletes who display core values in their daily lives on and off the playing field.

In September of 2021, Craig began his 53rd year in education, 53rd year of basketball coaching and 41st year as a High School Athletic Director.

Craig and Arlene have been married 53 years. They have three children Bart, Aimee and Ty and six grandchildren Trae, Gunner, Court, Cooper, Ella and Kannon.

