

SLA MICHAEL S. WEINER AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2019 RECIPIENT



Ray Anderson

Ray Anderson was named Arizona State University's Vice President for University Athletics on Jan. 9, 2014, and has quickly redefined the collegiate athletics landscape over the course of his tenure at ASU.

Anderson was named by Forbes Magazine as one of the 25 Most Influential Minorities in Sports in February 2016, noting that he had "helped position the Sun Devils as one of the most innovative brands in college sports." He received an extension in the spring of 2018 through 2022.

Highly influential in the world of collegiate athletics, Anderson is a board member of the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame, a member of the NCAA Football Oversight Committee, Chair of the new Ad Hoc NCAA Competition Committee, the Green Sports Alliance Advisory Board, and most recently the ITA Board of Directors. Anderson was also one of a group of minority athletics directors to meet with NCAA President Mark Emmert and NCAA Leadership at the 2016 College Football Playoffs in Phoenix and encouraged the creation of a collegiate "Rooney Rule" to encourage diversity and inclusion in the hiring of athletics leadership. The initiative led the NCAA Board of Governors to create a pledge for university chancellors, presidents and conference commissioners to publicly express their support for diversity and inclusion efforts within intercollegiate athletics.

While national trends lean toward downsizing athletics departments and eliminating non-revenue generating sporting programs, Anderson has made it his mission to not only add NCAA Division I sports at Arizona State, but expand educational and scholarship opportunities for future Sun Devil student-athletes. Since his arrival in 2015, Sun Devil Athletics has added men's ice hockey through a record-setting \$32 million donation, which also helped fund the addition of women's lacrosse and women's triathlon, which has won three-straight national championships. In 2016, Anderson and his wife, Buffie, gifted \$1 million to help reinstate men's tennis.

Anderson is in the midst of an athletics' facilities renaissance with the final phase of the \$307 million reinvention of Sun Devil Stadium being

completed, the design and construction of a new multi-purpose facility to house men's hockey, wrestling and volleyball, and planning for the renovation of Wells Fargo Arena progressing, and the University land development project known as the Athletic Facilities District or Novus Innovation Corridor activating. The Novus district is comprised of 330 acres of ASU-owned land that the University plans to lease long term to developers, while Sun Devil Athletics will receive annual payments in-lieu of property tax traditionally paid on privately owned land. In addition, Anderson oversaw the baseball program's celebrated move into Phoenix Municipal Stadium and capital improvements including an indoor batting facility and the new home and state-of-the-art facility for men's and women's golf, The Thunderbird, at Papago Golf Course.

Anderson, along with University officials, is leading the charge to reinvent Sun Devil Stadium into a 365-day-a-year facility and use the 55,000-plus-seat venue to generate additional revenue for ASU. The Sun Devil Stadium 365 Reinvention seeks to blend athletics, student life, and the community into an interdisciplinary facility that will have utility beyond six or seven days a year.

Since his arrival, Anderson has emphasized his commitment to the Olympic movement as a university and athletic department. Through this vision, the city of Tempe hosted the 2017 & 2018 Women's Triathlon National Championships and an affiliated Age Group Race. On the topic of national championships, the NCAA has announced ASU and Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale will host the 2020-22 NCAA Men's & Women's Golf National Championships, becoming the first university and course to host three-straight golf championships. Not to mention the return of the NCAA Final Four, hosted