



AMERICAN COLLEGIATE ROWING ASSOCIATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Awarded to Coach David Kucik, Purdue University

American Collegiate Rowing Association Board of Directors is proud to bestow upon David Kucik -- the ACRA Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 26 years as Head Coach and Director of Rowing for Purdue University and for his contributions to Competitive Collegiate Club Rowing.

Upon arriving in West Lafayette in 1995, Coach Kucik began molding the historic program (founded in 1949) into a club rowing powerhouse that any rowing program should want to emulate. He has fostered an environment that not just produces elite rowers who have competed at the World or Olympic level, but this program delivers to even the most average of college rowers the opportunity to be part of the Purdue Crew family legacy for the simple cost of their own dedication and hard work.

The collegiate rowing scene is a place where men's and women's programs are often run separately; however, Dave Kucik's Purdue Crew has stood in dramatic opposition to this shift. There are no cuts or erg tests. Hundreds of students show up year-after-year to test the waters of the Wabash. The men and women not only train side-by-side, at times they train together in mixed boats, all the while really learning to pull together. It's not just a rowing focused group, it's also a community focused group. Each year the team participates in community events like the Lafayette Urban Ministry's Hunger Hike.

While at Purdue, Kucik's program has produced Dad Vail winners for the Men's, Lightweight Men's, and Women's crews as well as consistently fast boats on the national level at the ACRA Regatta. Kucik has taken the program to the Men's and Women's Royal Henley Regatta.

Kucik not only leaves behind a tremendous legacy at Purdue Crew, he also will hand down a Boathouse on Brown Street that brought Purdue Crew into the everyday view of the greater Lafayette community. Kucik was a key driving force in bringing a modern boathouse into being. His vision for a boathouse became a reality in 2010 and is the place that the athletes and alumni of Purdue Rowing can truly call the home of Purdue Rowing.

Coach Kucik's impact on collegiate club rowing cannot be overstated. On behalf of the American Collegiate Rowing Association we thank Coach Kucik for the impact he has made on our sport, and we wish him continued success.