

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Rockford's NJCAA Championship Week Set as Region Hosts First-Ever NJCAA Championship *RVC Welcomes 2018 NJCAA DIII Women's Basketball Championship*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2018

ROCKFORD, IL — Alongside the host institution Rock Valley College (RVC), the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) welcomes the top eight Division III junior college women's basketball teams in the country to the Rockford region for the **2018 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III Women's Basketball National Championship**. The championship tournament will be hosted at the RVC main campus in the **Physical Education Center**, 3301 N. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL from **Thursday, March 15 – Saturday, March 17, 2018**. This is the first time that an NJCAA championship has been hosted in the Rockford area.

Teams will be traveling to the Rockford region from junior colleges in **Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Connecticut, Maryland, New York and New Jersey** to compete for the national championship. There will be four games played on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the tournament. Game times each day will be **1 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.** Approximately **2,500 players, coaches and fans** will visit the Rockford region throughout the weekend, as the event is projected to fill **500 room nights** and generate **\$117,000 in estimated economic impact**.

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$8 general admission per day, \$6 student admission per day, \$20 tournament adult pass for the entire weekend or \$15 student pass for the entire weekend.

"We are so excited to be hosting the 2018 NJCAA DIII National Tournament here at Rock Valley College. It gives us the opportunity to not only showcase the amazing campus of Rock Valley College, but also beauty of the entire Rock River Region," said Misty Opat, Rock Valley College athletic director and head women's basketball coach. "It is an honor to be hosting this event for the first time and for our women's basketball team to be able to show case their talents at the same time as well. I encourage all the Great Rockford Region to rally around RVC and join us at the next for 3 exciting days of basketball."

"It has been a privilege to work alongside the faculty and staff at Rock Valley College over the last two years in advance of welcoming the NJCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship to the Rockford region for the very first time. Our community is very eager to host this group of elite basketball players, coaches and fans from around the country. In fact, the City of Rockford has proclaimed that this is officially NJCAA week in our region," said John Groh RACVB president/CEO. "The amount of support we have received from area partners and community leaders speaks volumes and shows the magnitude of our excitement for hosting a tournament of this caliber in the region. We wish all the players much success during the tournament."

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Other events preceding the NJCAA Championship include:

FREE RVC/NJCAA Girls Basketball Camp

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Time: 5:30 – 7 p.m. (participants should arrive by 5 p.m. and this is on a first come, first served basis)

Location: Guilford High School Field House, 5620 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, IL 61114

Details: This free RVC-hosted camp features former WNBA All Star Tamecka Dixon, a two-time WNBA champion, three-time WNBA all-star and 1997 Kansas Jayhawk graduate who played professionally in the WNBA from 1997-2009. Dixon is the lead clinician and will teach all-ages players techniques to hone their skills. Event partners include RACVB, RPS 205, and RPD.

2018 NJCAA Championship Tip-off Banquet

Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Prairie Street Brewhouse

Details: This banquet is the tip-off to welcome all qualifying teams to the Rockford region for a successful tournament weekend. The event will feature keynote speaker and special guest, Tamecka Dixon, former WNBA All-Star.

For questions please contact Darin Monroe, Rock Valley College championship tournament executive director, at (815) 921-3822 or D.Monroe@RockValleyCollege.edu. Additional information and a schedule of events can be found at rvcsports.com/WBBChampionship.

NJCAA has played a vital role in collegiate athletics for the past eight decades and continues to be the leader in championing academic and athletic opportunities for student-athletes.

RACVB exists to drive quality of life and economic growth for the citizens of Rockford and Winnebago County through tourism marketing and destination development. gorockford.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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