



Athletes Helping Athletes Celebrates its 20th Anniversary and Honors its Founder Warren D. Breining, Class of 1974

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Donald G. McPherson, executive director of the Adelphi University Sports Leadership Institute is proud to announce the 20th anniversary of Athletes Helping Athletes (AHA), a nationally recognized organization dedicated to training high school student athletes to become leaders and address social issues such as violence and substance abuse. To mark this special occasion, a dinner will be held honoring founder, director, and Adelphi alumnus Warren D. Breining, Class of 1974 on Saturday, June 4, 2005, at 6:00 PM in Adelphi's Ruth S. Harley University Center, 1 South Avenue, Garden City, New York. Honorary dinner co-chairs are National Hockey League Hall of Famer and former New York Islander Pat LaFontaine and Naismith Hall of Famer and basketball legend Nancy Leiberman. All proceeds will go toward supporting the Sports Leadership Institute and expanding its programs and services.

"Affiliated with Adelphi University for many years, Athletes Helping Athletes officially became a signature program of the University's Sports Leadership Institute in January 2005," said Donald G. McPherson, executive director of the Adelphi Sports Leadership Institute. "I'm very pleased to honor Warren, a friend and colleague whose devotion and contributions have impacted the lives of so many young people and communities. For two decades, Athletes Helping Athletes under Warren's direction has developed some of the most proactive programs in the nation, while addressing serious social and health issues affecting youth today."

Committed to teaching the positive aspects and life lessons of the sports experience, Mr. Breining founded Athletes Helping Athletes, a not-for-profit organization which has served more than 600,000 children in four states and Canada. Through its Student-Athlete Leadership Team program which trains high school student athletes to be mentors to elementary school children, more than 7,500 high school student athletes have been trained, 130,000 elementary students have benefited, and 100 school districts and communities have seen impressive results from the program. Under Warren's leadership, today AHA offers programs and training in areas of sportsmanship/civility, and bullying and teasing.

Prior to creating AHA, Mr. Breining was the executive director of the Phil Esposito Foundation where he was responsible for designing and implementing a series of career transition programs for active and retired athletes. One of its focuses was to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among the athletes and provide professional counseling for those with substance abuse problems. In addition, he launched a training model where professional athletes mentored young people. In January 2005, he was elected to the board of trustees for the Family and Children's Association, one of the largest non-for-profit and human service agencies on Long Island. Mr. Breining holds a M.S.W. from Stony Brook University and a B.A. from Adelphi University.