



Jaclyn Spencer

Jaclyn Spencer is a senior pitcher on the University of Northern Iowa softball team. She is being recognized for her community service involvement and student-athlete leadership activities. Spencer finds value in being recognized as a servant leader. As a servant leader, she has volunteered countless hours to the youth in the Waterloo, Iowa community. Every Wednesday night, you can find Spencer at the Prairie Lakes Church High School leading a group of high school girls in Bible study. She wants to be a strong, confident role model for young girls and is passionate about leading in this capacity. Spencer serves as a softball coach for a 10 and under team. She dedicates two days per week to practice and gives up her entire weekends, during travel softball season, to coach and mentor her team. Additionally, Spencer annually participates in the KBBG parade every August. KBBG is the largest African-American owned and operated community radio station in the state of Iowa. Spencer says, "This parade celebrates diversity and emphasizes the importance of social justice." Also, Spencer regularly volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club for game nights. Volunteers are paired with students for a casual night of fun and games, but Spencer finds this as an opportunity to connect with the youth, model appropriate behavior, and talk with youth about making healthy choices that will positively impact their futures.

Through her busy schedule of balancing sports and academics, Spencer also finds time to be a team and campus leader. She has been the captain on her softball team for the past three years. Spencer is a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Executive Team, as well as being a SAAC representative for the Missouri Valley

Conference. Finally, Spencer is a member of the Minority Student-Athlete Leadership Team. This team promotes and creates engagement opportunities on and off campus for all of the minority student-athletes. The programs have a social component, but more importantly there is always a professional who speaks to the group. "We can all learn from others and hearing these experiences can help us all make the most of our time as a student-athlete and grow into professionals who can continue to pour into the next generation of multicultural leaders!"

Spencer is on pace to graduate this spring with a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Mathematics (K-8). She has a 3.474 grade point average.



Ryan Culhane

Ryan Culhane is a senior on the University of Dayton football team. Culhane has been an active leader at Dayton since his freshman year when he was elected to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). He is currently a member of the SAAC Executive Committee and has been elected as the SAAC Community Service Co-Chair. Within this capacity, Culhane has displayed his leadership skills through organizing student-athletes to participate in several community service activities and fundraisers. In particular, Culhane has displayed a passion for working with the youth at two inner-city Dayton schools, Horace Mann Elementary and Blairwood Elementary Schools. Culhane regularly visits these schools on field days, speaking engagements, school supply handout days, and for Halloween. In fact, Culhane organized a SAAC talent show to raise money for school supplies and library books for Blairwood Elementary. Culhane has also been a key leader in organizing "Christmas on Campus," a university-run day where

underprivileged children in the Dayton community are buddied with a student-athlete who takes them around campus partaking in different Christmas activities. Through these interactions he has created a special friendship with a young man.

In addition to working with the youth, Culhane has taken the lead in having student-athletes partake in Dayton's first "Day of Giving" this past spring. In a 24-hour effort, Culhane and his student-athlete volunteers helped raise \$866,284 from 5,638 total donors. Proceeds will benefit the University fund. Through his SAAC leadership, Culhane has helped raise \$35K for the Dayton Foundation to benefit the families of victims wounded and killed in the Oregon District mass shooting, as well as for those impacted by tornadoes in the Dayton area on Memorial Day. Culhane has also participated in fundraisers for pediatric cancer research and for the Andy Talley Bone Marrow Foundation.

Culhane is on pace to graduate this fall with a degree in Chemical Engineering. Culhane is committed to his football team's motto: "Rebuilding Together Dayton." In his words, "Every year, Dayton football is part of rebuilding..." the Dayton community.

