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SUBJECT: HCCC Names Alums and All-Americans as New Men's and Women's Lacrosse Coaches

SOURCE: Donald Dutcher, Director of Athletics
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Herkimer, New York—Herkimer County Community College today announced the appointment of two former HCCC lacrosse standouts who led their teams to multiple regional and national championships to the head coaching positions for men's and women's lacrosse. Rich Dommer ('99) will lead the Herkimer Generals men's lacrosse team, while Brandi Ostrander ('05) will lead Herkimer's women's lacrosse team.

"We are proud to welcome Brandi and Rich back to HCCC to lead and inspire a new generation of lacrosse talent," said Ronald F. Williams, HCCC president. Ostrander was a starting player on the College's inaugural women's lacrosse team in 2004, and a member of the Region III Championship team in 2005. For both of those years, the team was named NJCAA Academic Team of the Year. "Brandi embraces our philosophy of combining academic and athletic success and values the HCCC lacrosse tradition as a formula for future successes long after graduation," said Williams. Rich Dommer has won national championships at the NJCAA, NCAA and NLL levels. "We are very pleased he has chosen Herkimer as the place where he will win his first national championship as a head coach," concluded Williams.

About Rich Dommer

At Herkimer, Dommer was named the 1999 NJCAA National Attackman of the Year and was a First-Team All-American. Dommer went on to play lacrosse at Adelphi University, where he received a bachelor's degree in physical education and health studies and a master's degree in sports management. At Adelphi, Dommer was the captain of the 2001 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II national championship team. That same year, and in following years, he was named to the Dean's List and Presidential Honor Roll. While working on his master's degree at Adelphi, Dommer was an assistant coach. Dommer was a professional lacrosse player with the Toronto Rock Lacrosse Organization in Ontario, Canada, where he was a National Lacrosse League (NLL) World Champion. He also served previously as an assistant coach for the men's lacrosse team at HCCC in 2004.

About Brandi Ostrander

Ostrander has served HCCC as a player, captain, assistant coach and lacrosse club advisor. She received her associate's degree physical education from HCCC in 2005. As a student athlete, Ostrander was named SUNY Chancellor's Scholar Athlete (2005), Female Scholar Athlete of the Year (2005), and was an Academic All-American, member of Who's Who of American Junior College Students, and named to the Dean's List and President's List during her career at HCCC. She is currently working on a bachelor's degree at SUNY Cortland.

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Most recently, she served as the 2006 Fall Lacrosse Club advisor at HCCC where she has begun planning and strategizing for the 2007 season. She was the assistant coach for HCCC's women's lacrosse camp in 2005 and 2006.

“As the director of athletics at HCCC, I am very pleased with the two new hires for our coaching staff. Just by looking at these two individuals' track records, they have the knowledge, experience and passion we look for in our coaches. As they were former students here, they know our system, students and staff. Both candidates have very strong academic backgrounds, which is an excellent fit with our coaching staff philosophy that places academics first,” said Donald Dutcher, HCCC director of athletics.

History and the Future

The men's lacrosse program has won nine NJCAA Division III national championships and 21 Region III championships. The women's lacrosse program was started in 2004 and in three years, has twice won the Region III championship and has been named NCJAA Academic Team-of-the-Year three times. In the 2005 and 2006 seasons, the women's team came in third in the nation in the NJCAA Division III National Championship Tournaments.

The HCCC women's lacrosse team will kick off the 2007 season with a game on Sunday, April 18, 2007 at Anne Arundel Community College, while the men's season begins on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at Army. For more information about this year's season, contact the Athletics Office at HCCC at (315) 866-0300, x-8255.

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