L. William Miller, professor and chairman of the physical education department, has been named recipient of the David L. Underwood Memorial Lecture Award (1982) at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley.

The Underwood Award, named in honor of the late David L. Underwood, former dean of instruction, is presented each year to an outstanding faculty member at Florissant Valley. The award recognizes commitment and dedication to the college and its students.

Miller has been employed at Florissant Valley since 1966. He has been named to the Greater St. Louis Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Missouri Track and Field Hall of Fame. Miller also serves on the executive board of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and is a consultant for Medalist Sports Education. Miller received a B.S. from Indiana University and a M.S. from the University of Illinois.

Athletic competition transcends politics, believes Bill Miller, physical education director at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley. "It stresses comradeship, national pride, brotherhood and dedication." Miller, who delivered the annual Underwood Memorial Lecture during Florissant Valley's opening week, discussed the importance of sporting activities not only for individuals, but nations as well. "The Olympic motto sums it up," he said, "Not the Winning, But the Taking Part."

Miller mentioned a number of attributes he thinks crucial to any successful athletic program--and at the heart of the program at Florissant Valley.

"I believe in competition on the field, and friendship off; athletes have to be able to handle winning and losing," he emphasized.

Miller, a firm believer in the miracle of team work, stressed that each athlete must strive for a goal "and make the most of the best that is in you." Such an attitude carries beyond sports to one's personal life. Traits such as teamwork, striving for goals and dedication lead to success both on the field and off.

Miller believes that while the ultimate goal in all competition is winning, "it must be within guidelines." He also is concerned about what he sees as the "pro" concept-- stressing visibility and the pursuit of money. "It's becoming 'entertainment' not necessarily sports. "Sports is becoming a captive of the pursuit of the dollar," he said, adding, "The thing that bothers me is we have lost our heroes--and we miss them."
The Underwood Memorial Lecture was named in honor of David L. Underwood, former dean of instruction at Florissant Valley. The lecture award recipient is selected on the basis of competence and dedication to students and the field of education.

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Bill Miller is considered by his peers to be a leader in the field of athletic administration. So much so that a national athletic administration board recently voted to name its highest award after Miller, chairman of the physical education department at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley.

At its recent winter meeting, the executive board of the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators voted to establish and name its award for athletic administration excellence after Miller. It is presented annually at the NATYCAA national convention to an association member in recognition of leadership, service and integrity.

"Bill Miller exemplifies what athletic administration is all about," said Rich Golas, president of NATYCAA.

During 1988-89, Miller and several colleagues laid the groundwork for NATYCAA. It was established to facilitate communication and exchange of ideas related to all phases of athletics among community and junior colleges and two-year college extensions of senior institutions. Miller was elected the organization's first president for the 1989-90 academic year.

"The nicest thing that can ever happen is to be honored by your peers," Miller said. "These are people whom I have worked with all my life. When you try to organize something like NATYCAA and it works, it's great."

A 1949 graduate of Indiana University, Miller joined the SLCC-Florissant Valley staff in 1966 to develop a prototype athletics/physical education program for the district's three campuses. He served as director of athletics at Florissant Valley until 1989. He received Florissant Valley's David Underwood Lecture Award in 1982.

Miller initiated the first National Junior College Athletic Association Indoor Track and Field Championship in 1973, and was a charter inductee into the Missouri Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1974. He was one of four community college representatives to serve on the National Collegiate Athletic Association's executive board from 1980 - 84, and was the first NJCAA selectee to the National Olympics Academy. He also served as the director of the track and field competition in the first U.S. National Senior Olympics in 1987.

A resident of Richmond Heights, Miller is a consultant for track and football for USA Coaches Clinics.