



ALMA COLLEGE

Attn: Committee on Women's Athletics
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington St
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6222

Alma College and Alma College Athletics would like to lend its support of the efforts to add STUNT as an NCAA emerging sport. The initiative to place STUNT on the emerging sport list is imperative as it provides additional opportunities for talented women athletes to participate in intercollegiate athletics as well as gain the vital benefits of sports both on and off the field.

The mission of the Alma College Athletic Program is to advance the mission of the college by providing athletic experiences that lead student-athletes to graduate as informed and responsible citizens of the world. We provide an equitable, diverse, competitive intercollegiate athletic program that complements academic achievement by enabling students to understand the principles of fairness, responsibility, and leadership. In our pursuit of competitive excellence, we will demonstrate sportsmanship, integrity, unity, passion, and determination.

Here at Alma College, our women's STUNT team has been in existence under athletics for seven years. It was an easy decision to add the sport in 2012 seeing as the state of Michigan has over 7,000 cheerleaders and a sanction sport version of cheerleading, similar to STUNT, at the high school level. Since its inception, we have grown from a beginner squad of 18 to an enormously talented squad of 37. Our STUNT team has the same privileges as the other sports at our college, including a full-time head coach, access to athletic training, a full-time strength coach assigned to the team, representation on SAAC, and access to post-season awards. In 2015, 2018 and 2019, the STUNT team was voted "Team of the Year" by the athletic department.

We are very excited about the new sport of STUNT and can say with absolute certainty, that it will help colleges and universities like ours, provide a valuable sport offering that will significantly expand the number of female student-athletes on campus. With its 36-person roster, STUNT provides colleges and universities an effective way to expand female sports participation and improve compliance with Title IX.

Alma College is committed to continuing STUNT as a varsity sport at our institution. We fully support the efforts of USA Cheer to secure NCAA emerging sport status for STUNT and urge the Committee on Women's Athletics to approve their proposal for formal designation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dehring
Interim Director of Athletics
Senior Woman Administrator

Jeff Abernathy
President