

# Western Collegiate Hockey Association

Sara R. Martin  
Commissioner  
C 303 808-9366 • F 608 829-0200  
smartin@wcha.com

**Bill Brophy**  
Women's Public Relations Director  
O 608 277-0282 • C 303 330-5468  
bbrophy@wcha.com

**WCHA Administrative Office**  
MSC 8302, WCHA  
2211 S. Josephine Street  
Denver, CO 80208-8302  
O 303 871-4491 • F 303 871-4770

**Bruce M. McLeod**  
Commissioner  
bmcLeod@wcha.com  
**Carol LaBelle-Ehrhardt**  
Associate Commissioner of Operations  
clabelle@wcha.com

**Greg Shepherd**  
Supervisor of Officials  
O/F 651 330-5131  
gshepherdwcha@gmail.com

**Doug Spencer**  
Associate Commissioner for PR  
O 608 829-0100 • C 303 475-9283  
dspencer@mailbag.com

## Women's Member Teams

Bemidji State University  
University of Minnesota  
University of Minnesota Duluth  
Minnesota State University  
University of North Dakota  
Ohio State University  
St. Cloud State University  
University of Wisconsin

## Home of a Record 14 Consecutive National Championship Teams

2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005,  
2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011,  
2012, 2013

## 2014 WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF

March 7-8  
Sanford Center • Bemidji, MN

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November 13, 2013/For Immediate Release

## Sara Martin to Retire as WCHA Women's Commissioner Leader Since 1999 Will Step Down in June, 2014

MADISON, Wis. – Commissioner Sara R. Martin, who has served as the guiding force of the women's Western Collegiate Hockey Association conference since its founding in 1999, will retire at the end of this season.

The WCHA executive committee has put together a search committee and is finalizing a plan to find a successor to Martin, whose retirement is effective, June 30, 2014. The Commissioner position will be posted in December, 2013 with the intent to have Martin's successor begin in May, 2014.

"With all of the changes in college hockey and approaching my fifteenth season, this seemed like the perfect time to step down," said Martin. "I have been very proud to be a part of the WCHA. This association is very special, with a long tradition of success. We have an outstanding WCHA staff and institutional coaches, administrators and especially student-athletes who have elevated the sport of women's ice hockey and will continue to do so. I look forward to being a WCHA fan for life."

With a long and successful tenure in collegiate sport administration and management that spans three decades, Martin has overseen the development and day-to-day functions of the women's WCHA while also playing a key role in national issues involving the growth of women's hockey.

Under her guidance and leadership, WCHA-member teams have captured a record 14 consecutive national championships (2000 ACHA Div. 1 champions, 2001-2013 NCAA Women's Frozen Four champions) and six WCHA players have earned the Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award as the top player in Division 1 women's collegiate ice hockey. Hundreds of WCHA players have had extensive experience and success in international competitions such as the Winter Olympics, IIHF World Championships and Four Nations' Cup.

During Martin's tenure, WCHA-member teams have regularly led the country in attendance and the league's annual playoff championship – known as the WCHA FINAL FACE-OFF – has continued to grow and garner attention in March.

"Sara has been an invaluable resource to the WCHA and will be missed," said Bill Hudson, the St. Cloud State professor who serves as the chair of the WCHA executive committee. "I feel lucky to have worked with her over the years and we thank her for her contributions to the association during her tenure."

Martin has been extensively involved with college hockey for more than 20 years. She served as tournament director of the WCHA Final Five Playoff Championship in 1994, 1996 and 1998, was the tournament manager for the 1997 NCAA Men's Frozen Four held at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee and was assistant tournament manager for the 1993 NCAA Men's Frozen Four, also held in Milwaukee. She was also the tournament manager for the 1995 and 1999 NCAA Division 1 Men's West Regionals, held in Madison.

Prior to assuming her duties with the WCHA, Martin worked at the University of Wisconsin Athletic Department from 1990-99.

Martin earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1990 and a Master of Arts in Sports Administration from Minnesota State University in 1993.

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