

Daryl Gross

Current Athletic Director @ Cal State Los Angeles

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Biography

Dr. Daryl Gross is a transformational athletics leader with over three decades of experience across NCAA Division I and Division II programs. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Cal State Los Angeles, where he has helped usher in a new era of excellence since 2016. Under his leadership, Cal State LA won its first team national championship in over 40 years (men's soccer, 2021), earned its highest national ranking in over a decade, and expanded offerings to include a competitive women's golf program.

Gross's leadership has driven success both on the field and in the classroom. During his tenure, Golden Eagle teams have produced 33 All-Americans, 88 All-Region athletes, and over 170 All-Conference honorees. He also led major capital projects, including partnerships with LAFC and the development of the Billie Jean King Legacy Center—an upcoming, world-class venue for education, inspiration, and sport.

Before Cal State LA, Dr. Gross served as Director of Athletics at Syracuse University for a decade. He was the architect of Syracuse's move to the ACC, led the largest fundraising and facility campaign in school history, and elevated the athletic budget from \$28 million to \$93 million. Under his guidance, Syracuse Athletics achieved its highest-ever national rankings and graduation rates. Gross also launched the iconic "New York's College Team" brand and was later named Vice President and Special Assistant to the Chancellor.

Earlier, Gross held senior administrative roles at USC, where he helped guide the Trojans to 16 national championships and over 30 Pac-10 titles. He played a key role in hiring elite coaches, including Pete Carroll, and oversaw record-breaking corporate sponsorships, marketing, and facilities development.

A former college football player at UC Davis and NFL scout for the New York Jets, Dr. Gross also coached football and tennis at the collegiate level. He holds a Ph.D. and master's degree in educational psychology from USC, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from UC Davis. He and his wife, Lael, live in Southern California with their four daughters.

Statement

Driven by a lifelong mission to build champions on and off the field, I believe in the power of visionary leadership, elite coaching, and student-athlete success. My goal is to elevate programs through excellence, innovation, and a culture of belief.

Achievement

NACDA top 25 Ranking

His accomplishments include leading Syracuse from 128 in the NACDA, Learfield athletic department standings to becoming an eventual top 25 program in the nation.

Student Athlete Success

During his 14 years in athletics administration at USC, the Trojans won 16 national and more than 30 Pac-10 championships, fielded 145 Olympians, played in nine bowl games, and finished in the top 10 of the Directors'

Cup ranking regularly. The University's signature program – football – dressed two Heisman Trophy winners and won two national championships.

Education

Ph.D

University of Southern California

Master's degree and Ph.D. in educational psychology from USC

Psychology

University of California, Davis

Feature

First CCAA Presidents' Cup Delivered To Cal State LA

LOS ANGELES -- Cal State LA was presented with the inaugural California Collegiate Athletic Association Presidents' Cup for the 2023-24 academic year on Thursday night at halftime of the Cal State LA-Chico State women's basketball game.

PRINCIPLES

- Build a culture of excellence that strives to win championships and achieve high performance both on the field and in academics.
 - Maintain compliance with NCAA rules and operate the athletics department in a fiscally sound and efficient way.
 - Empower and support exceptional coaches and leadership to elevate programs and student-athlete experiences.
 - Invest in student-athlete welfare, facilities, and opportunities that enhance success and community engagement.
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COACHING CAREER

Executive Director Of Intercollegiate Athletics — Cal State Los Angeles

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | | 2016

Vice President & Special Assistant To The Chancellor — Syracuse

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | | 2015 - 2016

Athletic Director — Syracuse

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | | 2005 - 2015

Senior Associate Athletic Director — University of Southern California

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | | 1991 - 2005

Personnel Scout — New York Jets

NFL - National Football League | Football | 1989 - 1991
