



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **BEMIDJI STATE'S BRENDAN HARMS WINS 2016-17 SENIOR CLASS AWARD®**

*Senior forward given prestigious honor for excellence in  
community, classroom, character and competition*

EDINA, Minn. – April 7, 2017 – Bemidji State forward **Brendan Harms** (Steinbach, Manitoba) has been named the 2016-17 Senior CLASS Award® winner for collegiate hockey, becoming the first Beaver student-athlete and second from the men's Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) to earn the prestigious honor.

Chosen by a nationwide vote of Division I men's hockey coaches, national hockey media and fans, the award is given annually to the most outstanding senior student-athlete in the sport.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School®, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their athletic platforms to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. To be eligible for the award, student-athletes must be classified as NCAA Division I seniors and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

"Winning the Senior CLASS Award really means a lot," said Harms. "When I saw the list of nominees, they are all great players and they are amazing people too. Just to have the opportunity to be nominated and then to make the short list of finalists was an extreme honor for me. When you put the work in to balance life as a student-athlete and try to contribute more than just on the ice, and then get acknowledged for that, it's an amazing feeling.

"Bemidji State and NCAA Hockey has been a great platform for me to do more for myself and the people around me. First and foremost I got tremendous coaching, which allowed me to be better on the ice, but they also preach being a great person. Because Bemidji is a smaller community I have had so many opportunities to get involved in the community and get to know people, help out and make a difference."

Selected as an alternate captain for the eventual MacNaughton Cup champion Beavers, Harms finished his Bemidji State career with a 21-point season (8g-13a) in 2016-17, which included six power-play goals and two game-winners.

"Brendan Harms personifies what it means to be a student-athlete," said Bemidji State Head Coach **Tom Serratore**. "He does everything the right way, always committed to his work in the classroom, in the community and on the ice. He leads by example and makes a positive impact with everything he does

and everyone he meets. He is a great representative of Beaver Hockey and leaves Bemidji State and our community a better place.”

With 88 career points (33g-55a) in four seasons and 141 games, Harms ranks among the top 12 on BSU’s Division I-era scoring list, while his 55 assists place him eighth at BSU since 1999-2000.

An All-WCHA Third Team selection (2014-15), and a three-time recipient of the WCHA’s Scholar-Athlete Awards as well as a three-time member of the league’s all-academic team, Harms finished his career totaling at least 20 points in each of his four seasons at BSU, which includes a career-best 25 points (8g-17a) as a junior (2015-16).

Harms’ commitment to excellence extends far beyond the confines of the boards. As a volunteer, he has worked with the Bemidji Boy’s and Girl’s Club, BSU’s Campus Clean Up Project, the local food shelf and community garden and the suicide prevention run/walk, while he has assisted fellow students during BSU’s fall move-in and visited Heartland Christian Academy during recess to play hockey with the students.

Harms owns a 4.0 grade point average as a business administration major with a minor in human performance. He is on track to graduate in the spring of 2017.

Harms emerged from a group of top-10 finalists that included three from the WCHA – more than any other Division I conference. Northern Michigan defenseman **Brock Maschmeyer** and Ferris State forward **Chad McDonald** were also among the finalists, who were chosen by national media from an initial list of 15 candidates announced in January.

#### ***About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA)***

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, is proudly completed its 65<sup>th</sup> season of men’s competition in 2016-17. The 10-team Division 1 conference consists of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (Chargers), the University of Alaska Anchorage (Seawolves), the University of Alaska (Nanooks), Bemidji State University (Beavers), Bowling Green State University (Falcons), Ferris State University (Bulldogs), Lake Superior State University (Lakers), Michigan Technological University (Huskies), Minnesota State University (Mavericks) and Northern Michigan University (Wildcats). For more information, visit [wcha.com](http://wcha.com).

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