



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DEAN THIBODEAU NAMED WCHA OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER**  
*Hockey operations veteran with three WCHA schools joins Association Office*

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. – July 2, 2018 – The Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA), through Commissioners **Bill Robertson** (Men’s League) and **Katie Million** (Women’s League), today announced that league veteran **Dean Thibodeau** has been named Operations and Administration Manager.

Thibodeau, who joins the Association office directly from Twin Cities-based Cargill, previously worked eight seasons in various operations roles with a trio of WCHA member institutions: St. Cloud State University (2008-14), the University of Wisconsin (2014-15) and the University of Minnesota (2015-17).

“We are thrilled to welcome Dean to the WCHA office and look forward to him having a tremendous impact in all areas of our Association,” said **Robertson** and **Million** in a joint statement. “Dean’s many years of on-campus, hockey operations experience will bring a fresh perspective, while his financial acumen, strategic vision and passion for the WCHA elevated him to the top of an impressive list of candidates. We believe Dean is the perfect addition to our staff and will play a key role in the continued success of the WCHA and our member institutions.”

Most recently, Thibodeau served a two-year stint as the director of women’s hockey operations at Minnesota, overseeing all non-coaching aspects of the program – including budgeting, video and travel planning – as the Golden Gophers won the 2016 national championship and advanced to the 2017 Frozen Four. Prior to joining the Minnesota staff, he spent the 2014-15 season on the other side of the “Border Battle” as the men’s and women’s video coordinator at Wisconsin. Thibodeau began his career with the St. Cloud State women’s program as an undergraduate, advancing from video duties his first season to extensive involvement in operations, team travel, video, creative services and game management during the 2013-14 campaign. He also spent the summer of 2011 as an intern with USA Hockey, returning to assist in future years with operations and video coordination at several international tournaments. While at Cargill, Thibodeau has served as an associate credit analyst, building upon his four years (2007-11) as an accounting assistant for his father, a Certified Public Accountant based in Connecticut.

Upon his arrival to the State of Hockey in 2008, the Connecticut native earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing from SCSU. Thibodeau and his fiancée, Hannah, currently reside in Minnetonka, Minn. Today marks his first official day with the WCHA office.

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### ***About the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Men's League***

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association, among the most historic, tradition-rich and successful conferences in all of collegiate athletics, will proudly mark its 67<sup>th</sup> season of men's competition in 2017-18. 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).

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

The Women's League of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association has won a record 16 national championships in 19 years since its inception in 1999 (including 15 of a possible 18 NCAA titles), while producing seven Patty Kazmaier Award winners, 98 All-Americans and numerous Olympic and national team members. The seven-team Division 1 conference consists of: Bemidji State University (Beavers), the University of Minnesota (Golden Gophers), the University of Minnesota Duluth (Bulldogs), Minnesota State University (Mavericks), Ohio State University (Buckeyes), St. Cloud State University (Huskies) and the University of Wisconsin (Badgers). For more information, visit [www.wcha.com](http://www.wcha.com).

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Matt Hodson

Assoc. Commissioner, Marketing & Communications

E: [mhodson@wcha.com](mailto:mhodson@wcha.com)

O: 952.681.7668

M: 612.801.2808

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

Website: [wcha.com](http://wcha.com)

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