

Doug Gibbins

2017 Distinguished Service

Doug Gibbins is a pioneer in the field of athletic training. He was the first full-time, certified athletic trainer in Highland Park and among the first in the entire state of Texas. Many will argue successfully that he was also the best. Doug was born in Alton, Illinois, but moved to Texas when he was 10 years old. He graduated from high school in Fort Worth and received his Bachelor's degree in education from Texas Tech University in 1964. In 1969, he received his Master's from the University of North Texas.

Doug began his athletic training career at South Garland High School where he was head athletic trainer and coach. After two other positions in Texas he came to Highland Park in 1974 to be the Head Athletic Trainer and Adaptive PE Teacher. Doug stayed at Highland Park until his retirement in 2012.

Most remarkable about Doug, is not only his 38 years of dedication to Highland Park, but most importantly his lifetime dedication to students. His innovative approach to training worked to prevent injury and protect his players every day, not just on game day. His influence spans generations of high school students who are now involved in many areas of endeavor, but always credit him for the strong and positive influence he had on their lives. He was sincerely concerned about all of his athletes, was skilled and creative in his treatments and, most of all, Doug was available to help them whenever he was needed. He set an amazing example of work ethic and compassion that helped to inspire all of his students including a number of young men who became professional athletes such as David Richards, Clayton Kershaw, Chris Young, Matthew Stafford and Daniel Sepulveda. In addition, 4 former student trainers have become doctors, 3 licensed athletic trainers, and 1 is now a licensed physical therapist.

Doug has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career including his induction into the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association (SWATA) Hall of Fame in 2000 and two awards that bear his name, the "Doug Gibbins Above & Beyond Award" presented annually by NTATS (North Texas Athletic Trainers Society) and the "Doug Gibbins Sports Medicine Award" which is presented to senior student trainers at HPHS.

He and his wife, Elaine have two children, Allison and Greg, and 4 grandchildren.