

# **SIUE Red & Black Gala raises more than \$146,000 for athletics**

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EDWARDSVILLE – The generosity and support for SIUE Athletics at the second annual Red & Black Gala was on display as officials announced that revenue generated for the event was more than \$146,000.

"Our development staff lead by Deputy Athletic Director Jason Coomer amazed me with their results," said SIUE Director of Athletics Dr. [Brad Hewitt](#). "What a great second year for the Gala. Then again our friends, donors and corporate partners also overwhelm me with their passion and support of Cougar Athletics. I am so thankful not only for the increased turnout but also for the increased generosity from all," said SIUE

Director of Athletics Dr. [Brad Hewitt](#). "I can't compliment the entire staff enough for their hard work - as coaches, administrators and staff are all engaged in making this a great success."

The Red & Black Gala, presented by Simmons Hanly Conroy, a National Law Firm, is a yearly fundraising event for SIUE Athletics. The proceeds will go directly to support Cougar scholarship needs.

The gala, held at the [DoubleTree](#) by Hilton Collinsville-St. Louis, featured numerous live auction items and silent auction items. A total of \$34,500 was generated off the live auction items donated by Mike & Maureen Moore, Dutch Hauhe, Mitch & Bob Meyers, Jennifer Hayes, the Pembroke Family, Craig & Jane Louer, Alan Grammer, Kerry & Jenny Baugher, the Missouri Athletic Club, Brad Bohannon, the Hewitts, Butler's Pantry & Bixby's, Tom Gerdes and Southern Bus Company, Lodging Hospitality Management and Mary Foster.

"A special thanks to KSDK personality Rene Knott for making the evening a special event as our guest auctioneer," Hewitt said. "The event would not have been as successful without the talent and generosity of Rene."

Between live auction, [silent auction](#) and fund the need donations, more than \$82,500 was raised. Ticket sales and the generous sponsorships accounted for the rest of the incoming funds.

Major sponsors included:

Title sponsor Simmons Hanly Conroy, a National Law Firm

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Hospitality; Food & Beverage Sponsors DoubleTree by Hilton Collinsville-St. Louis, Donnewald Distributing, Market Basket, Mike Shannon's Grill, Pepsi Co., Bull & Bear Grill & Bar, A Wildflower Shop and The Cup.

Over 300 [tickets](#) were purchased for the evening featuring a number of speakers, including former SIUE wrestler and SIUE Athletics Hall of Famer Alan Grammer, long-time friend of the program and SIUE Athletics Hall of Famer John Simmons,

Chancellor Dr. Randy Pembroke as well as Hewitt. SIUE student-athlete Mia Frogner, member of the back-to-back OVC champion women's tennis team, spoke on behalf of all the current SIUE student-athletes.