HPU announces recent staff, student awards

BY ENTERPRISE STAFF

HIGH POINT — High Point University students, faculty and staff recently completed service projects and received academic and professional awards.

• The American Physical Therapy Association of North Carolina presented an HPU doctor of physical therapy student with two scholarships and recognized two faculty members for contributions to the physical therapy profession during its annual conference on Oct. 9-10 at HPU. Professor David R. Sinacore received the Founders' Lecturer Award, the highest honor bestowed by the state association. The award recognizes physical therapists who have made an extraordinary impact on the field through their leadership. Lance M. Mabry, an assistant professor, was awarded the Darlene M. Sekerak Legislative Award, recognizing a physical therapist who has made a substantial impact on legislative issues facing the physical therapy profession and their patients. Deema Sader, a second-year physical therapy student, won the Diversity Student Scholarship in recognition of her efforts to advance diversity, equity and inclusion within the profession. Sader also won the EmergeOrtho Leadership Excellence Student Scholarship for scholastic achievement.

• Amy Holcombe, dean of HPU's Stout School of Education, has been selected from more than 400 education leaders across North Carolina to serve on the state's Innovation Leadership Council. In September, the council brought together leaders from K-12 schools, higher education and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction to identify and advance innovativations to strengthen education statewide.

• Suzanne Imperiale, a class of 2020 special education alumna who teaches at Gateway Education Center in Greensboro, was named Guilford County's Teacher of the Year. Braydyn Smith, who earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2025 and her master's in elementary education in 2026, was named the county's Rookie of the Year. She teaches at Shadybrook Elementary School in High Point.

• Doug Hall, HPU's vice president of career and professional development, was inducted into the Indiana University Kokomo Alumni Hall of Fame as part of its Homecoming festivities on Oct. 1. He was recognized for his professional accomplishments, community service and contributions to the Kokomo campus.