

SIUE Athletics' Hewitt reflects on 30-year tenure

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For the Intelligencer

This weekend on Segue, SIUE's premier radio show that discusses the lives and work of the people on campus and beyond, SIUE Chancellor Randy Pembroke, PhD, interviews Director of Athletics Brad Hewitt, PhD.

This episode of Segue will air at 9 a.m. this Sunday, June 23, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound and siue.edu/wsie.

Hewitt has served in his current role since 2002, but he began his career at SIUE in 1989. His leadership and determination brought SIUE to the NCAA Division I level under Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift.

During Hewitt's tenure, the program saw several renovations to Korte Stadium benefiting soccer, and the track and field programs. Additionally, Hewitt led the expansion of the baseball, softball and wrestling facilities, as well as improvements to the Vadalabene Center, its administrative offices and student-athlete program support facilities.

Hewitt served in several roles outside athletics from 1995 through 2002, including interim vice chancellor for development and public affairs, as well as two stints as interim director of alumni services before returning to athletics in 2002.

On June 30, Hewitt is set to retire, ending his 30-year career in administration, alumni affairs and athletic leadership at SIUE. "Thirty years at one



Brad Hewitt

institution shows that you had a remarkable career," Pembroke said. "Before you announced your plans and were contemplating retiring, was there something that indicated it was time to move on?"

"I do not believe it was one specific thing," Hewitt said. "It just hit me one day that maybe, this would be a good time in my personal and professional life to step back, collect my thoughts, decompress and see where life takes us."

Looking back at his extensive career, Hewitt is proud to have served at SIUE during some of its most pivotal moments of growth.

"Transitioning into Division I, what were the challenges you faced?" Pembroke inquired.

"It was a change that took place within our student-athletes," Hewitt said. "They have wants and expectations, but they had needs that came with that competition and experience level. Increasing the staff numbers to meet those needs from athletic conditioning, nutrition and coaching to academic

support was crucial for our athletes. If we kept our student-athletes happy and healthy throughout their time at SIUE, success will follow suit."

"We are quite proud that our student-athletes are successful not only on the court and fields but also in the classroom," Pembroke said. "They have had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for 26 consecutive semesters."

"Intercollegiate athletics wanted to create a culture that brought in talented student-athletes who represented our University in a first-class manner," Hewitt stated. "Ninety percent of our student-athletes retain and graduate, and that number was at 98 percent in 2019. With the support of our coaches, faculty and staff, athletic support teams, and many others on campus, they help students understand the University's expectations to succeed and graduate."

At the conclusion of this week's episode, Pembroke expresses his gratitude for Hewitt's 30 years of service.

"You truly gave your life to this institution, and we appreciate your dedication and all that you have done for our student-athletes and coaches," Pembroke said. "It's been a pleasure to know and work with you, and I look forward to seeing you back in the stands as a fan cheering for our Cougars!"

To hear this episode in its entirety, tune in to Segue at 9 a.m. this Sunday, June 23, on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound and siue.edu/wsie.