

# *Tim Cronnelly*

*Hall of Fame Inductee*

*Class of 2026*



For more than 35 years, Tim Cronnelly dedicated his career to education and interscholastic athletics, building a legacy defined by leadership, service, and an unwavering commitment to students. As a teacher, coach, athletic director, and mentor, he positively impacted countless young people while strengthening schools and communities throughout Montana and Idaho.

A graduate of Butte Central High School in Butte, Montana, Tim earned a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Montana State University, a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies in Economic Education from Boise State University, and a K-12 Principal Endorsement from Lamar University.

Tim began his career in 1987 at Baker High School in Montana, teaching social studies while coaching basketball and track. In 1990, he returned to education at Horseshoe Bend High School in Idaho, where he spent the next eight years teaching social studies and language arts while coaching football, basketball, and track. In 1998, he joined Cascade High School, continuing to teach and coach under Superintendent Gene Novotny, whom Tim credits as the greatest influence on his career. Novotny's integrity, high standards, and commitment to students became the model for Tim's own leadership.

In 2003, Tim joined the Lakeland Joint School District, where he spent the next 19 years serving as a teacher, coach, and athletic administrator at both Timberlake and Lakeland High Schools. He taught economics, served as athletic director, coached football and basketball, and remained dedicated to creating opportunities for students to excel both in the classroom and through athletics. He retired in 2022 after a career devoted to educational excellence and student success.

A respected leader among his peers, Tim has been an active member of the Idaho Athletic Administrators Association and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. His many honors include the University of Idaho Teaching Excellence Award, four Idaho Athletic Administrators Association Athletic Director of the Year awards, and the Idaho High School Activities Association District 1 Distinguished Service Award.

While proud of these recognitions, Tim considers the relationships he built with students, coaches, colleagues, and families to be the true measure of his career. Watching young people develop confidence, character, and leadership through education and athletics has always been his greatest reward. Among his proudest moments have been watching his own children participate and thrive in the athletic programs he helped build.

Retirement has not slowed Tim's passion for education and athletics. He continues substituting at KTEC in Rathdrum, serves as an assistant girls basketball coach at Timberlake High School, assists at track and cross country meets, and remains an enthusiastic supporter of high school athletics. He and his wife, Julie, enjoy spending time with their three children, granddaughter Clara, and cheering on the Montana State Bobcats.

Throughout his distinguished career, Tim lived by a simple philosophy: "Always do what is best for students." That principle guided every decision he made and remains the lasting legacy of a career dedicated to serving others.