



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**MINNESOTA STATE MANKATO QUARTERBACK JD EKOWA NAMED STEIN-FALLON COLLEGE SCHOLAR ATHLETE**

**MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – April 28, 2021 –** Minnesota State Mankato quarterback JD Ekowa has been named the Stein-Fallon College Scholar Athlete by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. The award, which highlights outstanding academic, athletic and community service accomplishments, is presented annually to one senior student-athlete from a Minnesota college or university. Ekowa, a native of Plainfield, Illinois, will be recognized during a television broadcast in the first part of May.

“We are thrilled to honor JD Ekowa for his outstanding academic, athletic and community accomplishments,” said Todd Fultz, President of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation. “He represents everything this award is all about. It is exciting to see Gophers legend Bob Stein and the late Pat Fallon’s values carry forward in Minnesota football.”

JD Ekowa was a standout quarterback for the Minnesota State Mavericks football program. His career accomplishments placed him among the best passers in Minnesota State history. Ekowa, a two-time captain, became one of 12 Mavericks quarterbacks to throw for more than 3,000 yards in his career. Additionally, his 29 career touchdown passes rank tenth on the program’s all-time list. Ekowa completed 56.7 percent of his passes for 1,352 yards and 10 touchdowns in 2019.

Off the field, he was named a William V. Campbell Trophy semifinalist for his outstanding athletic, academic and community accomplishments. Ekowa attended the NCAA APPLE Training Institute and volunteered in the Mayo Clinic’s oncology department. The star quarterback is also a member of the Umuavulu-Abor Association U.S.A., which raises money for the development of infrastructure and resources in Nigeria. Ekowa was named a three-time NSIC All-Academic/Team of Excellence selection and earned the NSIC Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award (maintained at least a 3.75 GPA).

Minnesota Football Honors is hosting a show to honor this year’s high school, college and Minnesota Vikings award winners. Special guests will be featured, including Vikings players. An official broadcast date will be announced soon on [www.minnesotafotballhonors.com](http://www.minnesotafotballhonors.com).

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**About the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation:**

The Minnesota Chapter of The National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to promote amateur football’s ability to develop leadership, sportsmanship, competitive spirit and academic excellence in Minnesota’s young people. The Minnesota Chapter recognizes legendary football icons, college football Hall of Famers and Minnesota’s top high school and college football scholar-athletes. For more information, visit [www.nffmn.org](http://www.nffmn.org), or Facebook ([@MNFootballHonors](https://www.facebook.com/MNFootballHonors)) and Twitter ([@NFFMN](https://twitter.com/NFFMN)).

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