



## Nominees Named for the 2019 American Association of Adapted Sports Program (AAASP) ASPIRE Awards

*Motivational Speaker and TV Host, Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt will headline the event as our Guest Speaker!*

**Atlanta, September 16, 2019**– The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) will honor 33 key people and organizations this Fall for their outstanding contributions to support student athletes with physical disabilities to get “off the sidelines and into the game.” **Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) Award** recognizes the significant contributions of these individuals and organizations that have been central to the mission of making adapted sports programming available nationwide. Through these programs, student athletes with physical disabilities across the country reap the physical, social emotional and academic benefits of competitive athletics resulting in personal and social empowerment.

The ASPIRE Awards have been established to recognize those who support and advocate on behalf of adapted sports. The awards showcase those who serve as role models; individuals; companies and organizations that have taken a proactive and innovative path in support of competitive sports programs for student athletes with physical disabilities.

### Nominees for this years’ program are listed below:

**Ben Harbin**, Founder’s Award

**Beth McLaughlin**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

**Christy Jones**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

**David Roberson**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, DeKalb County, GA

**Delton Schoates**, Advocacy Award, DeKalb County, GA

**Demarco Pittman**, Advocacy Award, Clayton County, GA

**Desmond Washington**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, Clayton County, GA

**Dr. Mark Scott**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

**Dr. Ralph Swearngin**, Founder’s Award

**Dr. James R. Hines**, Founder’s Award

**Ellen Williams**, Founder’s Award

**Encinitas Union School District**, School-Based Program Award, Encinitas, CA

**Everette Schoates**, Community-Based Program Award, DeKalb County, GA

**Gil Tyree**, Media Award, Voice America

**Hal Simpson**, Community-Based Program Award, Atlanta GA

**Houston County Sharks**, School-Based Program Award, Houston County, GA

**Jeff McDaniel**, The Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award, Houston County, GA

**Jesse Cochran**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, Meriwether County, GA

**Jordan Kozloski**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award and Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, Houston County, GA

**Keith DeBrosse**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, DeKalb County, GA

**Keonte Rankins**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award and Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, Clayton County, GA

**Leslie Sweatman**, Founder’s Award

**Logan Wegienka**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, Meriwether County, GA

**Monica Luna**, School-Based Program Award, Albuquerque, NM

**Najee Smothers**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, DeKalb County, GA

**O’lando Hicks**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, Houston County, GA

**Oglebay Institute’s School of Dance**, Community-Based Program Award, Wheeling, WV

**Regina Gennaro**, School-Based Program Award, Atlanta, GA

**Ricardo Applewhite**, The Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award, Clayton County, GA

**Sail Sand Point**, Community-Based Program Award, Seattle, WA

**Samantha Redd**, Outstanding Male and Female Athletes Award, Clayton County, GA

**Samuel Milliken**, Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, Gwinnett County, GA

**Dr. Zabrina Cannady**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

We are honored to have #1 International MegaSuccess TedX Speaker and TV Host, the **Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt** as our Special Guest Speaker at our 2019 ASPIRE Awards event; we are also thrilled to announce that local Atlanta veteran sports anchor **Sam Crenshaw** (GPB, 92.9 the Game, Atlanta City TV, voice of Georgia State Basketball on ESPN3) will join us again as our emcee for this special night.

(continued)



Join us for the 2019 ASPIRE Awards Ceremony on October 27<sup>th</sup> where the nominees for this year's awards will be celebrated.

**Date/Time: Sunday, October 27, 2019 - 4:30-7:00 pm**  
**Place: Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel**  
**One Hartsfield Centre Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30354**

Please visit <http://bit.ly/ASPIREAwardstickets/> to purchase tickets for this year's event.

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP), headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, is a not-for-profit association dedicated to developing interscholastic adapted sports programs in partnership with national, state, and local educational agencies. It represents a standardized approach to extracurricular adapted team sports and has developed one of the nation's most comprehensive school-based athletic programs for students with physical disabilities attending grades 1-12. For more information, please visit our website at <http://adaptedsports.org> or join our conversations on Twitter at: @AdaptedSports.

###

Contacts:

Atlanta: Terri Grunduski, Grunduski Group – [terri@grunduskigroup.com](mailto:terri@grunduskigroup.com) 404-226-7497  
Donna Feazell, Grunduski Group – [donna@grunduskigroup.com](mailto:donna@grunduskigroup.com) 404-290-1929