



American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) to Host 2021 ASPIRE Awards Virtual Celebration Sunday, October 24, 2021

Local Atlanta Veteran Sportscaster Sam Crenshaw to emcee the virtual event!

Atlanta, October 14, 2021– The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) will honor 37 key people and organizations on October 24th for their outstanding contributions to support student athletes with physical disabilities to get “off the sidelines and into the game.” The Third Annual ASPIRE Awards Celebration, emceed by local Atlanta veteran sports anchor **Sam Crenshaw** (GPB, 92.9 the Game, Atlanta City TV, voice of Georgia State Basketball on ESPN3), will be held Sunday, October 24th on Adapted Sports’ Facebook page, via FACEBOOK LIVE, in response to the ongoing COVID pandemic. **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.

Nominees for this years’ program are listed below:

Mary Beth Pelt, Advocacy Award
Dr. Jenny Millward, Advocacy Award
Jeff Jones, Advocacy Award
Monica White, Advocacy Award
Will Hammock, Media "Hero" Award
Coach Jimmy Roberts, Coach of The Year Award
Jacob Roche, Coach of The Year Award
Christy Jones, Coach of The Year Award
Anna Henry, Coach of The Year Award
Gliding Stars, Community-Based Award
RISE Adaptive Sports, Community-Based Award
MYBA Courage League, Community-Based Award
Boipoloko Stimulation Day Care Center, Community-Based Award
Jaiden Clark, Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award
Jeff McDaniel, Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award
Rene Langlois, Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award
Todd Earley, Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award
Kendrick Newton, High School Senior Athlete Award
Mason McCartney, High School Senior Athlete Award
Willie Long, Leslie Sweatman official of The Year Award
Ta’Daisia Hillman, Outstanding Female Athlete of The Year Award

Abby Simmons, Outstanding Female Athlete of The Year Award
Miranda Lawhorn, Outstanding Female Athlete of The Year Award
Bailey McCartney, Outstanding Female Athlete of The Year Award
Kathy Luna, Outstanding Female Athlete of The Year Award
Juan Nava, Outstanding Male Athlete of The Year Award
Gavin Pijnenburg, Outstanding Male Athlete of The Year Award
Seth Earley, Outstanding Male Athlete of The Year Award
Troup County Parks and Recreation/J.J. Keurzi, School-Based Award
Houston County/Rachel Gerrity/Rene Langlois/Jamie Schneller - Home Grown Yoga, School-Based Award
Gwinnett HEAT, School-Based Award
Ron Lykins, Founder’s Award
Jan Seaman, Founder’s Award
Jan Lauten, Founder’s Award
Onie Lawson, Founder’s Award
Terri Grunduski, Founder’s Award

Thank you to the following 2021 AAASP ASPIRE Awards Sponsors: the Georgia Department of Education, FlagHouse, the Georgia High School Association, and the AAASP Board of Directors.

Plan to join us for the live event on @AdaptedSports Facebook page – at 5:30 pm – to celebrate the nominees and winners with us! Learn more at: <https://www.facebook.com/AdaptedSports> and RSVP for the virtual event to get updates and additional information at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/268767381787691?ref=newsfeed/>.

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

www.adaptedsports.org **Facebook:** American Association of Adapted Sports Programs **Twitter:** @AdaptedSports



comprehensive school-based athletic programs for students with physical disabilities attending elementary, middle, and high school. For more information, please visit our website at <http://adaptedsports.org> or join our conversations on Twitter at: @AdaptedSports.

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