



2018 American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) ASPIRE Awards Winners Named

Atlanta, October 30, 2018– The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) honored fifteen key people and organizations Sunday night 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.

AAASP is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 AAASP ASPIRE Awards at the ASPIRE Awards Banquet at the Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel; for more information on all of our winners, please click here:

<http://adaptedsports.org/congratulations-to-the-2018-aaasp-aspire-awards-winners/>

All of our nominees were amazing; congratulations to this year's honorees:

Mike Phillips, Advocacy Award (Gwinnett Co. Schools)

Ken Gordon, Founders Award (Game Official 1999-2018)

Gloria Brown, Founders Award (DeKalb County Schools, GA)

Lori Garrett, Founders Award (Meriwether County Schools, GA)

George Carmel, Founders Award (Flaghouse)

Rick Devins, Media Award (WGXA, Macon, GA)

Steve Henson, Founders Award (AAASP Board of Directors)

Insperty Adaptive Sports Complex, Community-Based Program Award (Houston, TX)

Logan Wegienka, Outstanding Male/Female Student Athlete Award (West Georgia Wolverines, Meriwether County, GA)

Deborah Shapiro, Advocacy Award (Georgia State University, AAASP Board of Directors)

Virginia and Curtis Tabron, The Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award (Houston County Schools)

Demarco Pittman, Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, (Clayton Eagles, Clayton County Schools, Georgia)

Houston County Sharks, School-Based Program Award (Houston County Sharks, Houston County Schools, GA)

Jordan Kozloski, Outstanding Male/Female Student Athlete Award (Houston County Sharks, Houston County Schools, GA)

A heartfelt thanks to our special guests, emcee and host, longtime Atlanta sports anchor **Sam Crenshaw**, and guest speaker, world class athlete and 4-time Paralympian and Olympic silver medalist **Jean Driscoll**, as well as our sponsors for making the evening possible: The Coleman Family, in Memory of Scott Coleman, Slappey & Sadd, LLC, Georgia High School Association (GHSA), AAASP Board of Directors, Flaghouse, ABC Medical, Beitchman Law Firm, Michele Sims, and the National Alliance of Black Interpreters, Atlanta Chapter.

Tickets for our nominees for this year's 2018 ASPIRE Awards Ceremony were provided free of charge through a donation from the Coleman family. Cara Coleman provided the generous donation in memory of her late father, Scott Coleman, who was a dedicated Adapted Sports coach and mentor to countless student athletes in DeKalb County Schools.

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 404-226-7497

Donna Feazell, Grunduski Group – donna@grunduskigroup.com 404-290-1929

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