

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Katherine Fox](#)

Announcing the WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Honorees

- TUNE IN ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 7PM ON 38 THE SPOT KMCI -
(will be rebroadcast on Sunday, February 14 at 6pm on KSHB)

KANSAS CITY, MO (February 1, 2021) – The [WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards](#) presented by [Burns & McDonnell](#) is an annual event that recognizes women and girls throughout the community who are making a difference through sports.

Traditionally held as a luncheon and the largest in-person celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day in the country, this year it will take the form of a **broadcast television event** to air on **Saturday, February 13 at 7pm on KMCI 38 The Spot**.

The broadcast will feature a conversation with **Sarah Thomas**, the first full-time female official in NFL history. She was recently named to the 8-person crew that will officiate the Championship game, subsequently becoming the first woman to officiate a Super Bowl.

This event is a key fundraising initiative to support WIN for KC's **mission to empower the lives of girls and women by advocating and promoting the lifetime value of sports and fitness, while providing opportunities for participation and leadership development**. Opportunities to support include purchasing items from an [online auction](#) or making a tax deductible [donation](#) to the organization.

WIN for KC is excited to announce the honorees for the 2021 [Women's Sports Awards](#) presented by Burns & McDonnell.

The [BKD WOW Award](#) - presented to an individual or group in the community who has made an outstanding impact on women and girls in sports.

[Kimberly Williamson](#), originally from Jamaica, is a prime example of how strength and perseverance drives success. Following the death of two siblings at a young age, Kim suffered from mental health challenges. She also endured sexual abuse by a family member and learned to rely on sports as a healing outlet. Kim soon found her passion and honed her talent in track & field, which quickly became her escape from life's trials and tribulations. Determined to make a career out of the sport, Kim applied to colleges in the United States where she could thrive both academically and athletically. Her achievements include winning the Big 12 Championship in high jump during the 2015-2016 Outdoor Season, being named a First Team All-American that same year and winning the 2016 National Championship in high jump. She is currently training for the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo.

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The [Children's Mercy Sports Medicine Center Rising Star Award](#) - presented to a local girl (18 years of age or younger) who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities, setting and achieving goals and has made a special impact on the community.

[Morgan McGurk](#), a standout student athlete at Lee's Summit North (LSN), perfectly embodies what the Rising Star Award represents. In addition to being a four-year varsity tennis player, Morgan is also currently ranked first in her class. The young "go-getter" has served as a tennis camp counselor as well as an assistant coach for the nonprofit organization Girls on the Run. She is also president of the LSN chapter of National Honor Society, president of Student Activity Advisory Council, chairman of Custodian Appreciation Night, and publicity chair for the Senior Citizen Program. Morgan has been deeply impacted by the rise in teen suicide rates. In addition to relying on tennis as an outlet for her own anxiety and depression, she has sprung into action by organizing a suicide prevention walk to raise money and awareness as well as hosting an art-focused fundraiser for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. In recognition of her efforts, she received the Lee's Summit Mayor's Character Award in 2019 for her contributions. Morgan's ability to connect and passion for those around her sets her apart from many and have set her on a path destined to make a difference.

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The [Hallmark Cards Leadership Award](#) - Presented to a local female inspirational leader who best exemplifies the characteristics of a mentor to female athletes of all ages.

[Debbie Brown](#) has devoted her life to advocating for the benefits of participating in sports and fitness. Debbie taught physical education for 37 years, hosted the Deborah Jean Brown Special Needs Softball Camp from 2002-2008, enrolled her students in the WIN for KC Reading and Fitness Challenge for 10 years, was a Special Olympics coach for 14 years, and has been a member of the Heart of America Softball League (HASL) for 35 years – just to name a few of her endeavors. No matter her role, Debbie aspires to motivate people of all ages, experience, and ability to participate in sports. She has "retired" from coaching softball at least three times but finds herself drawn back time and time again because she feels that she always has something to offer. Debbie has devoted her life to playing, coaching, and mentoring people of all ages and is truly a trailblazer for women in sports in our community.

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The [Kissick Construction Game Changer Award](#) - presented to a local individual or group who personifies the true spirit of sport not as a participant, but as a supporter, promoter, or champion of girls' and women's sports and fitness.

A widowed mom to three girls, [Deb North](#) is an ever-present cheerleader and ambassador for girls and women in sports. Deb can always be found on the sidelines, in the bleachers, or in the audience cheering on her girls during their multitude of activities including sports, theater, music, and a variety of academic commitments. While balancing raising three girls, their various activities, and a career of her own, Deb proved she was far from content with simply 'getting by' with things as they were. When her youngest daughter wanted to try wrestling and they couldn't find girls' wrestling shoes, Deb sought to fill that need. She founded her own company, [Yes! Athletics](#), that provides wrestling shoes for girls. *Yes! Athletics*, a company sparked and driven by a need for her daughter, is now the encouragement that many young girls need to pursue their dreams and diminish the stigma surrounding traditionally gender-specific sports.

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The [Lockton Courage Award](#) – presented to a local woman or girl who demonstrates the ability to redefine barriers despite physical or mental challenges through her participation in sports, who has overcome tremendous obstacles to succeed in sports, or who has made a significant comeback in life and sports.

Giuliana Siraguso was born with Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (a rare syndrome that only affects about 50 people in the U.S.) and Sensory Hearing Loss. She is 97% deaf in one ear, and 95% deaf in the other. When she was born, doctors told her parents they could expect her to also be blind and paralyzed. Fortunately, early testing and monitoring revealed that her syndrome had spared her eyesight and would not impact her ability to move normally. When Giuliana was just six months old, she began pulling herself up on furniture and dancing. It was shortly thereafter that her parents decided to enroll her in dance class. Since then, Giuliana has proved to be a profoundly talented dancer which has led to her being invited to appear in several premier performances and events. Despite physical barriers, Giuliana has continued to shine and proves this is only the beginning of her journey.

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The [UMBFC Charitable Foundation Lifetime Sportswoman Award](#) – presented to a local woman, age 55 or older, who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities, encourages participation of girls and women in sports and still engages in athletics.

Patricia Conner is the epitome of a “seasoned” athlete. With the spirit of a champion and heart for the game, 88-year-old Pat Conner plans to “live until 100 and play basketball until the very end.” Pat, accompanied by, her two daughters, is a member of the Granny Basketball League. Pat has anecdotally been named “the best” recruiter, having recruited over 200 women to play. She has played basketball most of her life, and even participated as part of the intramural team at the University of Kansas (prior to Title IX). At the age of 83 and facing declining health and being diagnosed with osteoarthritis, she was determined to get back to the game by joining the Granny Basketball team in Lawrence. Today, amidst COVID, Pat keeps active by walking four miles, daily, and shooting hoops in her driveway. She eagerly awaits the day she can take back the courts and do what she loves with her teammates.

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About WIN for KC

The Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC), was established in 1994 under the umbrella of the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission, with the mission to empower the lives of girls and women by advocating and promoting the lifetime value of sports and fitness, while providing opportunities for participation and leadership development. WIN is a volunteer, membership-driven organization that operates as a program of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. For more information, visit WINforKC.org. For the latest on WIN for KC news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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WIN for KC

2600 Grand Boulevard, Suite 100 | Kansas City, MO 64108 | 816.474.4652