

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WIN for KC set to honor local females at the Women's Sports Awards Celebration presented by Burns & McDonnell on Friday, February 7

KANSAS CITY, MO (January 14, 2020) – The WIN for KC [Women's Sports Awards Celebration](#) presented by Burns & McDonnell is the largest celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day in the country. This annual event recognizes women and girls throughout the community who are making a difference through sports.

It will be held on Friday, February 7 at the Kansas City Convention Center Grand Ballroom (Networking Reception and media interviews beginning at 10:30 am) and is a key fundraising initiative to support WIN for KC's **mission to ignite girls and women through advocating and promoting the lifetime value of sports and fitness, while providing opportunities for participation and leadership development.**

WIN for KC is excited to announce the honorees for the 26th annual WIN for KC [Women's Sports Awards Celebration](#) presented by Burns & McDonnell. Purchase tickets and tables [here](#).

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.

As a mother to 8 children and long-time supporter of WIN for KC, [Flora Haug](#) has dedicated her life to serving as an ambassador for active participation in sport and fitness. Whether it is being present to support her own children's sporting events or encouraging friends and family to be active, Flora is constantly reminding others of the benefits of living an active lifestyle while being there to support everyone each step of the way.

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The [Children's Mercy 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.

10-year-old [Brijhana Epperson](#) is nothing short of a determined, young athlete. Participating in two sports, Epperson utilizes her "free" time to actively practice ballet and compete as a boxer. At the age of five, Brijhana began ballet, and she has been boxing for just over two years. Brijhana dedicates six to eight hours a week to the Kansas City Ballet as well as committing the same time to the Whatsoever Amateur Boxing Program. At just 10 years old, Brijhana has had a role in the Kansas City Ballet's *The Nutcracker* for three years in a row, and she has also won the National Junior Olympics Amateur Boxing Championship.

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

[Whitney Rodden](#) has been the strength and conditioning coach at MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) for nearly 15 years and has also been the strength coach for the Lenexa Police Department for the last five years. In the Summer of 2016, Whitney's youngest daughter, Harper, died when she was accidentally hit by a car at an at-home daycare. Since then, Whitney has made it her mission to help keep kids safe from cars through her work on childcare legislation with "Kids in Cars." She also helped start "Harper's Hugs," which was created to honor Harper's life by sharing her hugs with other children through teddy bears, each of which include a message to raise awareness for child safety.

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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.

After a nearly forty-year absence of the sport from Kansas City Public Schools, Associate Athletic Director [Meredith Doyle](#) and Head Coach [Elizabeth Fowler](#) served as the ambitious "go-getters" who led efforts and actively sought to start a softball team for Lincoln College Preparatory Academy. The two worked tirelessly to build the program from the ground up, establishing a sense of pride, community, and belonging that students at Lincoln Prep were once missing.

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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.

[Claire Richards](#) was a standout athlete in high school and college. In the summer of 2016, life-altering tragedy struck when Claire was in a serious car accident, requiring life flight and intense rescue measures to save her life. She suffered a traumatic brain injury from the accident, and doctors did not think that she would ever be able to walk or speak again. Today Claire is not only speaking, but she is able to do box jumps, assisted pull-ups, barbell and kettlebell work, and she has even recently completed a 5K in under an hour.

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The [UMB 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.

[Lois White](#) is 90 years young, a grandmother to 20 and a great-grandmother to 29. She serves as an incredible example that, regardless of one's age, sports matter. Just a year ago, 90-year-old Lois White found her passion for the sport of pickleball. Now, every Tuesday and Thursday, Lois spends hours playing pickleball, competing against opponents half her age. Through pickleball, Lois has found that she can continue to keep moving, learning, and connecting.

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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 ignite girls and women through 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

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