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2024 Women's Sports Awards Keynote Speaker Revealed: Three-Time Paralympic Gold Medalist Alana Nichols

KANSAS CITY, MO (December 5, 2023) – Alana Nichols, the first American woman to win gold medals at both Summer (Wheelchair Basketball) and Winter (Alpine Ski Racing) Olympic/Paralympic Games, will be the keynote speaker for the 2024 Women's Sports Awards presented by Burns & McDonnell. The annual awards program is WIN for KC's biggest fundraiser and the largest luncheon in the country celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day.



In 2000, at the age of seventeen, Alana was paralyzed from the waist down due to a snowboarding accident. Nine months after the injury she discovered adaptive sports, specifically wheelchair basketball, at the University of New Mexico. By 2004, Alana was competing as an alternate for the U.S. women's team at the 2004 Summer Paralympics in Athens. Her paralympic debut came in 2008 when she won a gold medal in wheelchair basketball at the Beijing games.

Inspired by the skiing events at the 2006 Winter Paralympics, Alana moved to Colorado in 2008 to begin training in alpine skiing. By 2010, she'd established herself as an international competitor and won two gold medals, a silver medal and a bronze medal at the Paralympic Games in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

"My injury could have been the end of my participation in sports, but in some ways, it was the beginning," says Nichols. "As a Paralympian I've traveled the world, competed on behalf of my country, and been given a platform to uplift and inspire people facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles."

Alana made her paracanoe debut in sprint kayaking during the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio. Additionally, she won the first-ever all-female adaptive surf competition in history and continues to passionately promote and enjoy adaptive surfing. A three-time ESPY nominee, Alana serves on the boards at EspnW and The Women's Sports Foundation while also serving as an ambassador for The High Fives Foundation.

"Alana's journey as an athlete is not just about excellence and resilience in the face of adversity, but about finding joy and community through sports," says Kathy Nelson, President and CEO of the Kansas City Sports Commission and WIN for KC. "I am thrilled she is going to share her story with hundreds of women and girls in Kansas City as we celebrate 30 years of WIN for KC."

The 2024 Women's Sports Awards presented by Burns & McDonnell will be on Tuesday, January 30th. For more information, please click [here](#).

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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