



## American Association of Adapted Sports Programs to Recognize School Programs and Key Trailblazers through the ASPIRE AWARDS

**Atlanta, February 16, 2018**– The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) will honor seven key people and organizations this Spring for their outstanding contributions to support student athletes with physical disabilities to get “off the sidelines and into the game.” The **Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) Award** recognizes the significant contributions of individuals and organizations that have been central to the mission of making adapted sports programming available to children with physical disabilities. Through these programs, student athletes with physical disabilities across the state reap the physical, social emotional and academic benefits of competitive athletics resulting in personal and social empowerment.

The ASPIRE award has been established to recognize those who support and advocate on behalf of adapted sports. The award showcases those who stand as role models; individuals; companies and organizations that have taken a proactive and innovative path in support of competitive sports programs for student athletes with physical disabilities.

Winners are chosen through an application process; AAASP will accept nominations from Feb 15 - March 15 this year. ASPIRE Winners will be announced April 15. Anyone can nominate a Coach, Organization, Recreation Program, School or Volunteer that has made a significant contribution in any of the following categories:

- **Advocacy Award** – presented to an individual who has demonstrated exceptional efforts toward the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities.
- **Media Award** – presented to an individual or organization that provides conscientious coverage and visibility to AAASP’s sports leagues.
- **Community-Based Program Award** – presented to an individual or organization that is instrumental in establishing or expanding adapted sports programming.
- **School-Based Program Award**- presented to an individual, school or agency that is instrumental in establishing or expanding adapted sports programming.
- **The Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award** – presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional efforts in support of AAASP’s sports league.
- **Outstanding Male and Female Athletes of the Year** - presented to an individual that has demonstrated exceptional efforts and leadership qualities in the AAASP’s sports league.
- **Outstanding Senior Athlete Award** - presented to a SENIOR in High School that has demonstrated exceptional efforts and leadership qualities in the AAASP’s sports league.

Please call Tommie Storms at (404) 294-0070 with questions or for more information on the nomination process.

To nominate a program or person, or to learn more about the awards, please visit: <http://adaptedsports.org/aspire-award/>.

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.

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