



## American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) 2019 ASPIRE Awards Celebration Honors the Best in Interscholastic Wheelchair Sports

*Motivational Speaker & TV Host, Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt Headlined Last Night's Event, Motivating Attendees to Be Unstoppable!*

**Atlanta, October 28, 2019**– The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) honored 33 nominees and 20 ASPIRE Award recipients this weekend for their outstanding contributions to support student athletes with physical disabilities to get “off the sidelines and into the game.” The Second Annual ASPIRE Awards Celebration, emceed by local Atlanta veteran sports anchor **Sam Crenshaw** (GPB, 92.9 the Game, Atlanta City TV, voice of Georgia State Basketball on ESPN3), was held last night at the Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel. **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.

### Winners of the 2019 AAASP ASPIRE Awards were as follows:

**Atlanta Public Schools**, School-Based Program Award, Atlanta, GA

**Ben Harbin**, Founder's Award

**Beth McLaughlin**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

**Christy Jones**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

**Delton Schoates**, Advocacy Award, DeKalb County, GA

**Dr. Mark Scott**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

**Dr. Ralph Swearngin**, Founder's Award

**Dr. James R. Hines**, Founder's Award

**Ellen Williams**, Founder's Award

**Gil Tyree**, Media Award, Voice America

**Jesse Cochran**, Outstanding Male Athlete Award, Meriwether County, GA

**Leslie Sweatman**, Founder's Award

**Cibola High School**, School-Based Program Award, Albuquerque, NM

**O'lando Hicks**, Outstanding Male Athlete Award, Houston County, GA

**Oglebay Institute's School of Dance**, Community-Based Program Award, Wheeling, WV

**Ricardo Applewhite**, The Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award, Clayton County, GA

**Samantha Redd**, Outstanding Female Athlete Award, Clayton County, GA

**Samuel Milliken**, Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, Gwinnett County, GA

**Dr. Zabrina Cannady**, Advocacy Award, Houston County, GA

**Robyn Hootselle**, Service Award, Atlanta, GA

We were honored to have #1 International MegaSuccess TedX Speaker and TV Host, the **Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt** as our Special Guest Speaker at our 2019 ASPIRE Awards event! Unstoppable Tracy shared her amazing story with all the attendees, in her high-energy style and the crowd was mesmerized. More about Unstoppable Tracy here: <https://www.unstoppabletracy.com/>.

Thank you to the following 2019 AAASP ASPIRE Awards Sponsors: Kyocera, the Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel, the Georgia Department of Education, Flaghouse, the Georgia High School Association, the AAASP Board of Directors, the National Alliance of Black Interpreters, Michelle Sims, Floors Sag or Shake?, and Emily and Aloyce Shaw.

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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