



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration honorees announced

KANSAS CITY, MO (December 14, 2016) – The WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration presented by Price Chopper on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 will honor six local residents for their impact on women and girls in our community through sports.

*Children's Mercy Youth Sports Girl Award* – Ryleigh Patience was diagnosed with Hurler's Syndrome when she was 3-years-old. Ryleigh was told she may not live to be 10 yet now at the age of 12, she is living an active life. Ryleigh currently plays softball despite the physical challenges many children with Hurler Syndrome face. She also has a special relationship with the University of Missouri softball team. She is not just their bat girl or cheerleader, but players and coaches alike will say Ryleigh is a part of the team. Ryleigh is an extraordinary girl with a fighting spirit, huge heart, and an even bigger desire to be a part of the game.

*BKD WOW Award* – Denise Henning was a founding member of WIN for KC where she helped shape and guide WIN's impact and empowerment throughout the community. After losing her husband to a heart attack at their son's baseball game, Denise and her sons formed The Henning Family Foundation to help prevent the tragedy from happening to other families by distributing AEDs to youth sports venues and other public places throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. Denise passed away from breast cancer in September 2016.

*UMB Senior Sportswoman Award* – Pam Davenport has been a competitive athlete for nearly fifty years beginning at the age of 12 on the swim team at the neighborhood pool, to tennis, volleyball and swim teams in high school and college and qualifying for Team USA for the past nine years. Pam competes in triathlon, duathlon, and aquathlon events around the world and has participated in two ironman distance competitions. At age 60, she placed fifth in her age group at ITU Worlds in Long Distance Triathlon. Pam is a role model for children and a mentor for adults and shares her expertise and passion not only through her competitions but in her everyday life through training others.

*Kissick Construction Teamwork Award* – Amy Fangman personifies the true spirit of sport through her work and advocacy for Tennis West, a program she founded in 2013 in western Shawnee. Amy's vision was simple, create an affordable opportunity for youth to be exposed to and play tennis. The program has grown leaps and bounds from a handful of kids in 2013, to over 150 last summer because of Amy's passion, magnetism and energy. She values that tennis allows participants to play a sport for a lifetime and her desire to teach youth of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds is contagious.

*Lockton Resiliency Award* – Allison Shewmaker is a senior on the Fort Osage High School cross country team and has not missed a single race. At the age of 18 months, Allison was diagnosed with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy. Many kids with this condition are often confined to crutches or even a wheelchair. Being born with a disability like cerebral palsy, Allison has to work harder than most athletes. Allison also excels in the classroom and is on the school honor roll. She hopes to one day run in the Special Olympics for Team USA.

*Hallmark Cards Leadership Award* – Justice Collins is not the leading scorer or star player for the UMKC Women's Basketball team. Instead, she is the team role model, confidant and leader. She serves on the UMKC and National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is the only student-athlete and student in general on the UMKC Women's Center Advisory Committee. Justice recently joined the newly formed NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Oversight Advancement Committee as the only student-athlete on the committee. In her free time, Justice helps and mentors teammates, student-athletes and students by promoting #ProjectMack, which is about living a life full of impact and Justice is doing just that every day.

For more information about the 2017 WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration presented by Price Chopper, visit the website at [www.WinforKCLuncheon.org](http://www.WinforKCLuncheon.org). Individual tickets can be purchased [here](#). To sponsor a table, contact Lisa Diven, Director, WIN for KC & Community Impact at 816-389-4186 or [ldiven@sportkc.org](mailto:ldiven@sportkc.org). WIN a once-in-a-lifetime Royals Spring Training experience by [entering](#) a special drawing. Winner will be drawn on February 3, 2017. All proceeds go towards our mission to empower women and girls through sports!

### **About WIN for KC**

The Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC), was established in 1994 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](http://WINforKC.org). For the latest on WIN for KC news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). #IAmAnAthlete

### **About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation**

The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation benefits the Kansas City region through sports by creating, attracting and managing major sporting events for Kansas City and promotes the lifetime benefits of sports for youth through educational initiatives, tournaments and clinics. For the latest on Kansas City Sports Commission news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Also follow the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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