



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2018 Kansas City Sports Commission Awards Banquet to be held this Thursday

KANSAS CITY, MO (June 4, 2018) – The 45th Kansas City Sports Commission Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, June 7 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown-Muehlebach Tower. The Awards Banquet honors outstanding individuals for their commitment and achievement in sports, and this event is attended by more than 700 of Kansas City's business and sports community leaders.

Here are the 2018 Kansas City Sports Commission Awards Banquet recipients:

Southwest Airlines Executive of the Year:

Bob Page, President and CEO, The University of Kansas Health System

Bob has helped make a substantial impact on the Kansas City sports community by forming strong relationships with many local sports entities. Bob has led the medical center to form partnerships with area high schools, ensuring that student-athletes receive the same level of medical care as provided to the professionals.

Kansas City Marriott Downtown Sportsmen of the Year:

Clayton Custer and Ben Richardson, Loyola University Chicago Men's Basketball

As part of the Loyola University Chicago Men's Basketball team, Custer and Richardson helped the team reach the NCAA Final Four for the first time since 1963. Friends since first grade, Custer and Richardson have been playing basketball together since the third grade. They won their first national championship together in the fourth grade.

Spire Sportswomen of the Year:

University of Central Missouri Women's Soccer and Basketball Teams

For the first time in school history, the University of Central Missouri Women's Soccer and Basketball teams brought home National Championship trophies in the same year. With over 25 athletes from the Greater Kansas City area between the two teams, the Jennies Soccer and Basketball teams continue to make a difference in the Kansas City community through their efforts to engage young women in sports, fitness and academics.

Burns & McDonnell Coach of the Year:

Larry Holley, William Jewell College Men's Basketball

Larry Holley recently completed his 39th season as the men's head basketball coach, where he leads teams to victory on a court named in his honor. During the 2017-2018 season, Coach Holley recorded his 900th career victory becoming one of the only ten men's college basketball coaches to do so across all divisions. He has received 14 Coach of the Year Awards including the prestigious Sears/NABC NAIA National Coach of the Year Award in 1996 (he was the first NAIA coach to receive this award from the NABC).

Children’s Mercy Community Champion:

Dale and Megan Duncan, The Spencer C. Duncan Make It Count Foundation

To honor the memory of their son who lost his life serving our country, Dale and Megan Duncan created the Spencer C. Duncan Make It Count Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting organizations, communities, and individuals who choose to make a difference in the lives of veterans. The Annual Spencer C. Duncan Make It Count 5K Run/Walk, now in its 7th year, has raised over \$400,000.

About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation

The mission of the [Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation](#) is to drive Kansas City’s overall sports strategy, to enrich the quality of life, create economic impact and raise visibility for our region. As a privately-funded nonprofit, we are entirely dependent on your support. For the latest on Kansas City Sports Commission news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Also follow the Kansas City Marathon presented by Garmin on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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