



# NEWS RELEASE

CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTS ALLIANCE  
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## CITIZENSHIP THROUGH SPORTS ALLIANCE TO HOST FIFTH ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION

**OLATHE, Kansas**---While Sunday, June 15, is special to fathers all around the country, it's also a special day to some of the nation's finest athletes whom the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance (CTSA) will honor at its Fifth Annual Citizenship Through Sports Awards Reception.

The event, which will take place at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando in conjunction with the 2003 National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Convention, will pay tribute to special athletes with the highest ethical standards in sport, whose lives and careers have reflected an enduring commitment to citizenship, sportsmanship and community service.

The 14 honorees and their CTSA organization include: Jody Brylinsky, Western Michigan University, National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE); Andy Geiger, The Ohio State University, NACDA; Jennifer Gillom, Los Angeles Sparks, Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA); Adam Graves, San Jose Sharks, National Hockey League (NHL); Revaé Green, Tavares High School, Tavares, FL, National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS); Bob Lanier, Legend and Community Ambassador, National Basketball Association (NBA); Jessica Lenderman, Vanguard University (California), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA); Melanie Mendrop, Hinds Community College, National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA); Paul Moore, West Virginia Wesleyan College, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); Apolo Anton Ohno, U.S. Speedskating, United States Olympic Committee (USOC); Shelton Quarles, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, National Football League (NFL); Jim Thome, Philadelphia Phillies, Major League Baseball (MLB); University at Buffalo Women's Soccer Team, NCAA; and Tyler Yonge, Vanguard High School, Ocala, FL, NFHS.

This year's theme is "Know Your Role," which focuses on parents and coaches in youth sports and encourages them to contribute to a positive, healthy environment for kids in practice and competition. The idea is that there are four roles we can play in sport – athlete, coach, official or parent/fan. The key is to choose one and respect the rest. Bruce Brown, the developer of "Know Your Role" and a special presenter for the NAIA's Champions of Character program, will receive the Special CTSA Award for his commitment to build character through sports.

The keynote speaker will be Pat Williams, senior vice president of the Orlando Magic. The master of ceremonies will be the USOC's former chief public and media relations executive, Mike Moran. The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the awards presentation at 7:15 p.m.

Each year, the Alliance seeks to highlight issues or initiatives that advance the concept of citizenship through sport. On Friday, June 13, CTSA will offer a special program, "Good Sports Night," at the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida (5055 Raleigh Street, Orlando). The program, which will run from 6:15-8:45 p.m., will provide fun, physical activities for kids and a short program for adults on the role of parents in athletics. Featured will be the USOC's Champions in Life, the NCAA's Character Discovery Challenge and the NAIA's Champions of Character programs. Among the athletes who will share their athletic experiences include U.S. Olympians Dot Richardson (softball), Chris Thorpe (luge) and Mark Ruiz (diving).

The Citizenship Through Sports Alliance is the single largest coalition of professional, collegiate, high school and Olympic athletics organizations in the nation, focused on character in sport. CTSA promotes fair play at all levels – youth leagues to professional sport – to reinforce the value of sport as a test of character. CTSA raises awareness of the issue of citizenship in sports while offering research, resources ([www.sportsmanship.org](http://www.sportsmanship.org)), community forums and specific strategies that help parents and coaches create a healthy sports environment for young people.

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