



March is Women's History Month, a time to celebrate the remarkable achievements and contributions of women around the world. In sports, women have shattered barriers, broken records, and inspired others through their athleticism, determination, and resilience.

At The Foundation for Global Sports Development, we're proud to recognize these trailblazers. From athletes and coaches to administrators and advocates, women have played a pivotal role in paving the way for future generations.

Beyond Women's History Month, let's work together to create a more inclusive and equitable world where all athletes, regardless of gender, can thrive both on and off the field.

Follow us on social media to learn about some of the remarkable women who have changed sports forever.



Exceptional Youth Scholarship

The deadline for the 2024 **Exceptional Youth Scholarship** has been **EXTENDED!** Applications are now being accepted until May 17th, 2024, at 11:59 PM ET.

Our scholarship offers ten (10) high school seniors the chance to receive a one-time, need-based scholarship of \$10,000 to continue their education at an accredited four-year college

or university in the United States.

Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be U.S. citizens or legal residents.

All awards are paid directly to the institution and applied to the student's first-year expenses.

"Receiving the Exceptional Youth Scholarship played a large role early on in helping me focus on my college classes by diminishing my financial worries. It is truly because of generous scholarships like this one that allowed me to excel as a low-income, first-generation [college] student."

Kacey Yip - 2019 Recipient

APPLY NOW

Lead Like Duke

Almost two years ago, our media division, Sidewinder Films, released Waterman, a documentary on the life and enduring legacy of Duke Kahanamoku, the father of modern-day surfing. Kahanamoku's athletic accomplishments and his ability to overcome social barriers and share aloha have been inspiring people ever since.

As a result of the film, the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) hosted its inaugural Middle Level Student Leadership Summit (MLSL) earlier this month with over 500 public middle school students from 46 schools in attendance. The theme of the event, "Lead Like Duke," highlighted Kahanamoku's leadership traits and showcased how the 6th through 8th grade participants had incorporated those in their schools and lives.



We're so honored to have been part of spreading Duke's story around the world and touched to see the way audiences have embraced and perpetuated the film's message.

WATCH WATERMAN ON PRIME

Meet our 2023 Athletes in Excellence

Established in 2015, GSD's **Athletes in Excellence Award** recognizes exceptional athletes who uphold the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

Since then, we've been proud to celebrate those who use their achievements in sport as a catalyst to inspire positive change by giving each recipient a \$10,000 grant to support their commitment to enriching the lives of others.

Ella Rae Rodriguez

US – Collegiate Wheelchair Tennis



Ella Rodriguez has been competing since she first discovered adaptive equipment when she was nine years old. Before college, she played wheelchair basketball, danced, surfed, cheered for her high school team, and helped her high school coaches create an adaptive team. After winning two silver medals at the Paralympic trials in 2021 in long jump and discus, she's now set her sights on joining Team USA's U26 Wheelchair Basketball team. As a Challenged Athletes Foundation (CAF) Ambassador and youth mentor, she has generously shared her story to inspire others at corporate functions and outreach events, including CAF's fundraising gala. In her spare time, she volunteers as a mentor and coach at CAF clinics, including CAF's work with the Golden State Warriors' wheelchair basketball clinic series and their multi-sport clinics at the University of Arizona. Ella has expanded people's horizons by connecting them to CAF for equipment and giving them a glimpse of what is possible. Ella is currently studying neuroscience and cognitive science, and playing collegiate wheelchair basketball for the University of Arizona.

Kelly Worrell



A life-long runner turned triathlete at 41, Kelly Worrell took silver in the 2018 Paratriathlon National Championship, was selected to represent Team USA, and has won gold and earned accolades like Elite Paratriathlon Development Athlete of the Year ever since. Ranked in the top 10 in the world and top 10 in the US in her sports class, she's currently working towards the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris. Besides her role as Northeast Regional Programs and Community Relations Manager for Challenged Athletes Foundation, she's a USAT Paratriathlon Level 1 coach, and a mentor to the U23 Para Triathlon Development Team, as well as for Sister in Sport Foundation. Kelly is the co-founder of Swim Bike Run 4 Equality Foundation promoting diversity and inclusion in the sport of triathlon, and a volunteer assistant director/board member for the Athletes with Disabilities Network Northeast, an organization dedicated to bettering the quality of life for people with physical disabilities.



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