

# Play Like a Champion Today

17th Annual National Sports Leadership Conference



Join us on June 17-18, 2022 at the University of Notre Dame  
*Mens Sana in Corpore Sano: A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body*

# Conference Overview

## Annual Leadership Conference

Each June, *Play Like a Champion* welcomes coaches and administrators from sports organizations across the United States to Notre Dame for their National Sports Leadership Conference. The conference serves as a forum for new attendees and veteran *Play Like a Champion* partners to connect while learning how to build an equitable youth sports system and foster the holistic growth of all children and adolescents. The conference also serves as the first step to beginning partnership with *Play Like a Champion* by training trainers to implement the program in their home community.

*“It’s always the people at the conference and the opportunity to engage in discussions with them about how they live out this mission within their own schools and leagues that is powerful. This is a phenomenal group committed to the well-being of our children and the mission of virtue driven sports. It’s your biggest asset as a program and this conference allows the group to get together in one place and interact.”*



***Connect, Educate & Inspire.***

# Past Conference Highlights



Pictures (clockwise from top): Play Like a Champion Executive Director Dr. Clark Power leads a roundtable discussion on the conference theme "A Team for Every Child", Conference staff and speakers pose for a photo in Notre Dame Stadium, award winners Anne Stricherz (left) and Andrea McCabe (right) take a photo with conference staff, participants in the 2nd Annual Play Like a Champion Olympics pause for a group photo, participants enjoy one of the conference plenary sessions .



# 2022 Conference Preview



## 17th Annual Conference Preview

The 2022 Leadership Conference *Mens Sana in Corpore Sano: A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body* will be held June 17-18, 2022 at the University of Notre Dame in the Jordan Hall of Science. The option to attend portions of the conference virtually will be available for those unable to travel to Notre Dame.

## A Team for Every Child

Conference attendees come from across America, with youth, high school and community leaders from a diverse group of schools and organizations. This national community is committed to providing opportunities for kids to participate and grow through sports and activities, creating *A Team for Every Child*.

As we continue this mission, we look forward to welcoming to the conference A Team for Every Child leaders from Homeboy Industries, North Lawndale Athletic and Recreation and Association, Michiana

Athletic and Recreation Association, New Life Centers (Little Village Chicago), Laureus Sport for Good Chicago and more. Join us in this exciting journey as we gather to connect, learn and be inspired at this year's conference!



## Travel & Lodging

The University of Notre Dame is easily accessible by air, car or train. The campus is approximately 100 miles from Chicago airports and 150 miles from the Indianapolis airport or 5 miles from the South Bend Regional Airport. Several area hotels offer discounted rooms for the conference and lodging is also available in on-campus dorms. Click the link below for detailed information on both of these options!

<https://www.playlikeachampion.org/conference-travel>

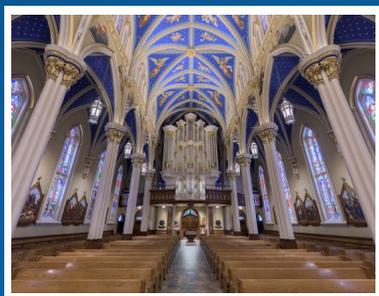


# 2022 Conference Preview



## Annual Pre-Conference Retreat

Our 8th annual pre-conference spiritual retreat will be held on Thursday, June 16th. Prior to the start of this year's retreat, participants are invited to attend Daily Mass at 11:30 am EDT at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame, followed by a special tour of the Basilica for those interested. The retreat will begin at 1:15 pm EDT in the LaFortune Student Center on campus. This year's theme is *Restoring and Refilling Our Cup*, an opportunity for busy athletic leaders to pause after two challenging years, reflect on the graces they have encountered, and "refill" their cup so that they can continue to pour themselves out to the athletes and staff entrusted to their care. The retreat will allow participants to experience the beautiful campus of the University of Notre Dame while providing time for prayer, reflection and discussion.



## Mass on Campus

The University of Notre Dame offers several opportunities for visitors to attend daily and Sunday Mass on-campus. During the summer, Mass is celebrated Monday - Friday in the Basilica's crypt at 6:45 am (the entrance is located on the north end of the Basilica) and at 11:30 am in the Basilica. The Conference will provide time to attend the

5:00pm (Sunday) Vigil Mass on Saturday evening at the Basilica. On Sunday, Mass is celebrated at the Basilica at 10:00 am, with Mass in the Basilica's crypt at 6:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Tours of the Basilica are also available daily from 9:00 - 11:00 am or prior to our retreat (see above).

## Sacred Spaces

The Notre Dame campus is filled with inspiring sacred spaces for those looking for a place to pray and reflect. In addition to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, visitors are often drawn to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, a walk around St. Joseph Lake (with Stations of the Cross) and the reflecting pool underneath the famous "Word of Life" mural on the outside of the Hesburgh Library - often referred to as "Touchdown Jesus". We encourage attendees to take the time to experience these beautiful spaces. More detail on exploring the campus and maps with these locations are [available here](#).



# 2022 Conference Speakers



## Darrell "Flash" Gordon

*Digging Deep to Unleash Your Best Self*

A native of Hillside, New Jersey, Darrell "Flash" Gordon had the privilege of playing at the University of Notre Dame under the leadership of Hall of Fame coach Lou Holtz. He was a starting outside linebacker on the Irish's 1988 National Championship football team and earned his Bachelor's degree in Economics & Business before going on to receive his Master's degree and Juris Doctorate. Since 2001, Darrell has served as CEO/President of the Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center in Indiana which serves the growth and development of troubled youth and their families. His extraordinary leadership and determination have transformed that organization to one with a positive national presence. As an author, speaker, and business leader, Darrell has appeared on national talk shows, news broadcasts, and commercials discussing topics on youth development, student-athletic success, dealing with change, organizational development and the need for character. His first book, *Change Does Not Occur in a Flash* was published in 2018.

## Dr. Carrie Hastings

*Mental Skills & Performance for Athletes*

Dr. Hastings is the Mental Health Clinician for the NFL Super Bowl Champion Los Angeles Rams and a licensed clinical and sport psychologist. She maintains a private practice and specializes in mental skills & performance enhancement for athletes, psychological and neuropsychological testing, and individual therapy for all ages. Dr.

Hastings completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame, where she was a hurdler and sprinter on the track team. Her personal and professional experiences fuel her work with athletes and non-athletes. She went on to receive her Masters and her Doctorate in Psychology from Pepperdine University. Dr. Hastings presents to national audiences on topics such as Trauma-Sensitive Coaching, Depression & Suicide among Athletes, Bullying & Hazing, and Coaching Athletes with ADHD and Autism. Dr. Hastings is a Certified Mental Performance Consultant with the Association for Applied Sport Psychology and is listed in the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Sport Psychology and Mental Training Registry.



# 2022 Conference Speakers



## Kory Minor

### *Opening Charge*

Kory Minor is a dynamic speaker, entrepreneur, sales trainer and consultant, as well as the head football coach at St. Margaret's Episcopal School in San Juan Capistrano, CA. A 4-year star star defensive player and team captain at the University of Notre Dame, Kory graduated with a degree in business marketing and was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in the 1999 draft. He played four seasons as a linebacker and special teams standout for the Carolina Panthers. Kory is the Founder and CEO of Kory Minor Training & Consultants, which is a Training Company for large to small corporations. A highly regarded sales team trainer, consultant, and peak performance coach, Kory is also an international speaker and best selling author. His clients include Fortune 500 companies around the world, sales organizations, business executives, and professional athletes. He is also a Play Like a Champion Trainer, bringing his positive energy and enthusiasm to coaches across the Los Angeles area.

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## Dr. Amanda Zelechoski

### *Sports Combatting Trauma*

Dr. Amanda Zelechoski is a licensed clinical and forensic psychologist and attorney, specializing in trauma. In addition to serving as professor of psychology and Director of Clinical Training at Purdue University Northwest, she is also co-founder of the nonprofit organization, [Pandemic Parenting](#). Zelechoski's research examines the intersection between psychology, law, and trauma, particularly for underserved populations. This includes evaluating psychological and forensic assessment methods, as well as working across systems to implement evidence-based, trauma-informed practices. Most recently, she conducted research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and parents, which led to the creation of Pandemic Parenting, a free digital resource platform and non-profit organization.



# 2022 Conference Speakers



## Ana Sierra

*Celebration of 50 Years of Title IX*

Ana Sierra is the Founder & CEO of the Ana Sierra Women's Basketball League (ASWBL) and Sierra Dreams in Chicago, IL. Over 6 years, the ASWBL has grown into one of the largest annual women's pro-am basketball leagues in Chicago and now features youth mentorship programming and

skill development for girls aged 8-18. The mission, of these organizations is to bring visibility to female athletes while leading, inspiring and empowering their journey on and off the court. A native of New York City, Sierra fell in love with the game of basketball at a young age, playing through college and semi-professionally while pursuing a career in business and entrepreneurship. She's also actively involved in the North Lawndale Athletic and Recreation Association, striving to build a "greater Chicago" by curbing violence and serving at-risk youth in inner city communities through basketball and youth development programming.



## Theresa Grentz

*Celebration of 50 Years of Title IX*



Theresa Grentz is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, having amassed 681 wins across a coaching career that led her to St. Joseph's, Rutgers, Illinois and Lafayette. She was also the head coach of the US Olympic Women's Basketball Team at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, where she led the team to a bronze medal. Prior to coaching, Grentz was

an athlete on Immaculata's three straight national championship teams from 1972-74, a team affectionately known as "The Might Macs." She scored more than 1,000 points for Immaculata and was named an All-American three straight years, as well as the AMF Collegiate Player of the Year in 1974. During the 1973 season, Grentz represented Team USA at the World University Games, the first event in which the USA competed in women's basketball. Grentz's storied career has spanned 5 decades and seen her recognized as a pioneer as both player and coach. An athlete at Immaculata when Title IX was signed in 1972, she benefited from the newly formed Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) and later led Rutgers to the 1982 national title in the final year before the AIAW was dissolved and the NCAA took control of women's championships.



# 2022 Conference Speakers



## Dr. Ramona Cox

*Mens Sana In Corpore Sano: Creating a Healthy Mind in our Athletes' Healthy Body*

Dr. Ramona Cox is the Director of the Champions Network™ at Doc Wayne Children's Services. As Director, Ramona leads a growing team of diverse facilitators and team members focused on professionalizing the field of sport-based therapy and offering engaging and accessible mental health support globally. An NCAA Division I volleyball player at the University of Michigan, Cox obtained her Ph.D. in Kinesiology with a concentration in sport psychology from Michigan State University. Following Ramona's collegiate volleyball career, she played 11 years of semi-professional football at tight end and fullback for the Detroit Demolition and Detroit Dark Angels. Ramona has a passion for sports-based youth development and has researched increasing sports and physical activity opportunities for urban African American adolescent girls.

Ramona is a board member of the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association and a member of the State of Michigan Women in Sports Task Force. She has also implemented impactful projects with organizations such as the Women's Sports Foundation and U.S. Soccer Foundation. Ramona continues to coach volleyball in Detroit at Cass Technical High School and Instant Replay Volleyball Club.

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## Nicole Williams

*Opening Prayer & Opening Charge*

Nicole Williams embodies what it means to utilize the power of music to enhance the lives of people. A native of the Bronx, N.Y and graduate of renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, Nicole has an extensive musical background expanding decades both as a professional musician and music educator. She holds several evidence based experiential certifications and is a certified Resiliency Trainer. Nicole's work, knowledge and genuine concern for individual and organizational wellness, success and resilience is evident by clients that sought her expertise which include the LeBron James Family Foundation, I Promise School, University of Notre Dame, Beacon Health System, United Way of St. Joseph, Chick-Fil-A, DePuy Synthes (Johnson & Johnson), Saint Mary's South Bend Community Schools Corporation and Elkhart Community School Corporation.



Since moving to the Midwest with her husband Theo over a decade ago she been jamming ever since!



# 2022 Conference Speakers



## Derek Brown

*Empowering Urban Youth through Kinship & Mentorship*

Coach Derek Brown knows the hardships of growing up on Chicago's West side. He joined a gang at the age of 13 and spent many of his younger years between the streets and jail. By the time he was in his twenties, Derek had been shot and his best friend was lost to gun violence. Now dedicated to building up the same community he once helped to tear down, Coach Brown is determined to prevent the next generation from enduring the hardships he experienced as a child. He started a grassroots program in 2009, meeting youth after school for physical training. Boxing seemed to be the activity that best held the kids' interest. As youth get further into the sport they experience, they begin to learn the hard work and dedication it takes to succeed in the ring. This program is about far more than fighting; it's about achieving anti-violence through youth empowerment, with boxing the vehicle for fostering self-respect, confidence, and a sense of purpose within a culture of positivity. That grassroots effort has now grown into Boxing Out Negativity, where Coach Brown heads three anti-violence components: youth boxing, community outreach and community anti-violence. This is more than a program, it's a way of life.



## Derrick Perry

*Empowering Urban Youth through Kinship & Mentorship*

Derrick Perry is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps who was born and raised in South Bend, IN. Having worked in mental health with children and adolescents for over 10 years, Derrick is passionate about ensuring our youth can grow into productive citizens of the world. He



serves as a Board Member for the Michiana Athletic and Recreation Association and leads its Relationships Activate Life Long Relationships Program, connecting with youth in school and program settings. "I've seen this city go through a lot," says Derrick. "As a South Bend native, entrepreneur, mental health counselor and community organizer, I've worked with just about every slice of life in this city. First and foremost, I consider myself a facilitator. I've learned how to have tough conversations—especially with regard to race and the criminal justice system. Whether or not you know someone who is justice-involved, the principles of restorative justice can help you grow as an individual and as a neighbor."



# Play Like a Champion Staff



## Dr. Clark Power

Clark is one of the nation's leading minds in moral education and developmental psychology. He is *Play Like a Champion's* founder, Executive Director and primary researcher, and provides key thought leadership for the program. He has served on the Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education, the Notre Dame Faculty Board on Athletics, and the Association for Moral Education. A graduate of Villanova University and Washington Theological Union, and Harvard University, Clark has taught at Notre Dame since 1982.

## Kristin Sheehan

Kristin has served as the Program Director of *Play Like a Champion* since the program's inception. She leads all partner relations, coordinates educational programs, and spearheads the development of new curricula. Kristin has co-authored numerous articles and publications and presented *Play Like a Champion* workshops across the country. She earned undergraduate and master's degrees in theology and psychology from Notre Dame, where she was a varsity athlete on the cheerleading team.



## Jim Power

Jim serves as *Play Like a Champion's* Director of Strategic Planning, coming to the organization following a full career with GE Capital and years of coaching experience with his 5 children. His educational background includes both an MBA and a Masters of Social Work at the University of Pennsylvania. He has been very active in the Old St. Pat's Kinship Initiative in Chicago, IL as well as the North Lawndale Athletic and Recreation Association (NLARA).

## Peter Piscitello

Peter serves as *Play Like a Champion's* Director of Operations, having joined the organization in 2017 after spending more than a decade in youth and college sports administration. He graduated from Benedictine College, where he studied business and theology before earning a Master's in Education from the University of Washington. He brings with him a passion for sports and a desire to help children grow in faith, character and skill.



# Play Like a Champion Staff



## Dr. Fabian E. Udoh

Fabian began teaching in 1998 at the University of Notre Dame's Program of Liberal Studies. He was born in Nigeria and did his university studies in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Rome (Italy), Oxford (England), and here in the United States at Duke University. As a scholar, his work has been focused on the New Testament, Early Christian History, and Jewish History in the Early Roman Period. Of late, he obtained a dual Executive MBA in Management from Purdue University and Tilburg University (Netherlands).

## Mariah Smith

Mariah is a native of South Bend, having attended Washington High School and then graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Psychology in 2020. She has been with Play Like a Champion for a year working on data collection, reporting and marketing for the Michiana Athletic and Recreation Association, one of Play Like a Champion's A Team for Every Child partner organizations. Mariah is trained to lead Restorative Justice Peace Circle groups in local Michiana schools and sport programs to create a self-healing community among and with youth.



## Play Like a Champion Fast Facts



Over 230 Youth & High School Partners across more than 150 Cities since 2006.



Over 140,000 Coaches & Parents ave been Trained in the Play Like a Champion approach. Benefiting more than 1.5 million children.



Play Like a Champion is active in over 43 diocese and hundreds of Catholic schools.

# What Attendees Are Saying

"This is a phenomenal group of people from across the country who are taking this mission and applying it. We need to be committed to action so that we can continue to move forward with these big ideas and spread this 'cultural revolution' even further in sport." ~ Boston Coach.

"The conference exceeded my expectations. It was very organized and professional. The content presented was relevant, informative and thought provoking." ~ Partner from Atlanta, GA

"The program is quite impressive...this conference creates collaboration with seminar formats and close interaction with presenters and colleagues."  
~ Attendee from Dallas, TX



"I was very happy to have been part of it. There were so many excellent speakers and valuable information and community shared. I only wish I had known about it sooner." ~ Past Conference Participant

"The conference...was spectacular. The featured speakers were very motivational and informative. Interacting with others and discussing our mutual challenges made me feel a part of something bigger than myself."  
~ Kansas City Coach

This conference, its attendees, panelists, speakers, partner presenters and coaches opened the door to so much great information. I've come home and researched all of the above people, bought books, read articles and picked up a movie. The conference hasn't stopped for me."  
~ Past Conference Participant

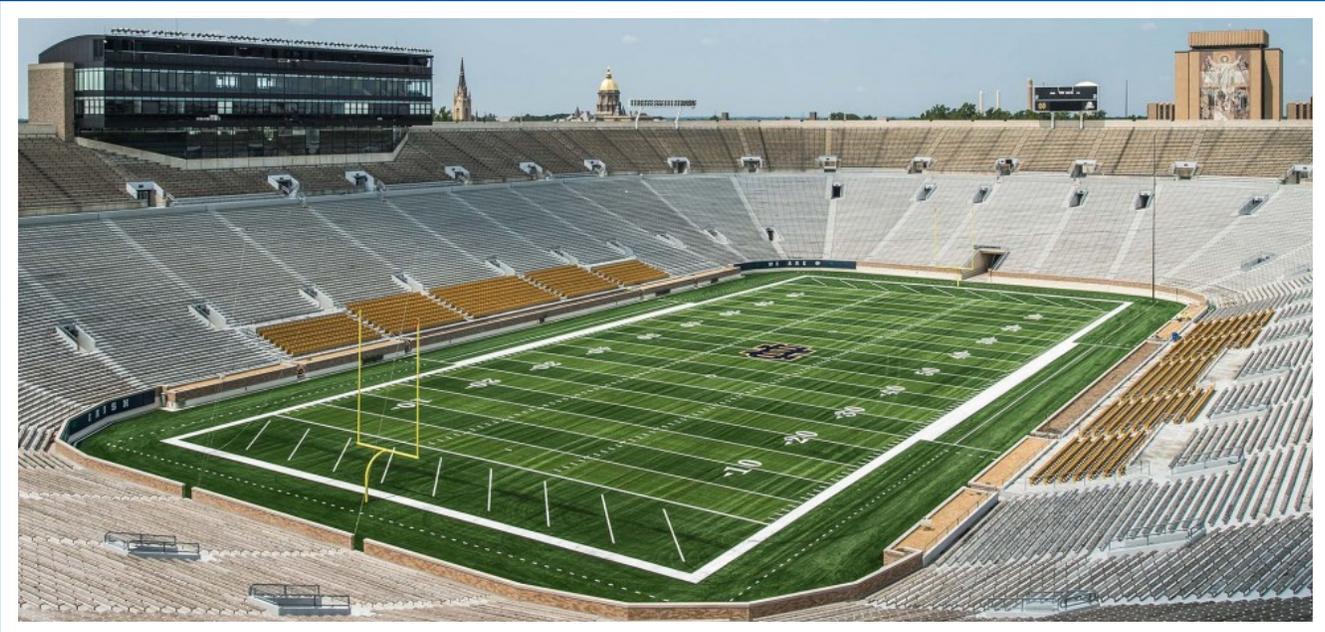
"It is an honor to attend every year, and I hope you and the staff know what an impact you each make in sports. I am grateful for all that I learn, and I look forward to continuing to attend every summer." ~ Past Conference Participant

# Additional Highlights

## Notre Dame Highlights

The Conference features a number of great opportunities to experience the beautiful campus of the University of Notre Dame and its state-of-the-art facilities. Enjoy a dinner in the Dahnke Ballroom that overlooks Notre Dame Stadium. Saturday features dinner followed by a tour of the Compton Family Ice Arena (COVID protocols permitting) and the popular Play Like a Champion Olympics. While on campus, we invite you to explore the famous Golden Dome, take a photo of "Touchdown Jesus", visit the Sinite Museum, light a candle at the grotto, attend Mass and take a tour of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, take a jog or walk around St. Joseph Lake and have a pint at the local Irish Pub.

Guests will find plenty of fun things to do outside the conference schedule!





***PLAY LIKE  
A CHAMPION  
TODAY.***



Character Education Through Sports



# Play Like a Champion Today Educational Series

[www.playlikeachampion.org](http://www.playlikeachampion.org)

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