

WIN FOR KC



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Contact:  
Katherine Fox – Director, Marketing & Sales  
[KFox@sportkc.org](mailto:KFox@sportkc.org) // 816-389-4189

## Venus Williams to serve as Keynote Speaker at the 2019 WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration Featuring ESPN commentator, Holly Rowe, as Emcee

KANSAS CITY, MO (November 8, 2018) – The Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC) is excited to announce that the keynote speaker for the 2019 WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration presented by Burns & McDonnell will be tennis legend **Venus Williams**.

Boasting seven (7) Grand Slam titles, five (5) Wimbledon championships and four (4) Olympic gold medals, Venus is one of the most accomplished, admired and inspiring women in the history of sports.

Throughout her career, Williams has been a steadfast advocate for equality. In 2006, UNESCO, the United Nations' cultural organization, titled her as the first "Promoter of Gender Equality." In 2007, it was her unwavering fight that led Wimbledon to award women players the same pay as their male counterparts. In September 2009, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) honored Williams with the Americanism Award for publicly speaking up for Israeli player, Shahar Pe'er, who was barred from the Dubai tennis tournament.



Williams' achievements throughout her legendary career have merited her a plethora of additional accolades, including Glamour Magazine's 'Woman of the Year,' ESPN's 'WTA Player of the Year,' and Forbes' 'Celebrity 100', among others. Off the court, Williams has two thriving businesses, V Starr Interiors, a full-service commercial and residential interior design firm, and her athletic apparel line, EleVen. Williams holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Indiana University East and an Associate of Science in Fashion Design from The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale.

"We wanted to kick off our year-long celebration of WIN for KC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in a major way – and it doesn't get any more major than Venus Williams," says Jessica Blubaugh, Director of WIN for KC. "We couldn't have made this exciting event happen without the generous support of our partners at [CommunityAmerica Credit Union](#) and [Veracity Consulting](#)."

ESPN Commentator, Holly Rowe, will emcee the event. Holly Rowe joined ESPN on a regular basis in August 1998 and had previously served as a sideline reporter for select ESPN telecasts in 1997 and for ABC Sports from 1995-96.

114 West 11th Street  
Suite 300  
Kansas City, MO 64105

P: 816.474.4652  
F: 816.474.7979

[WINforKC.org](http://WINforKC.org)

Rowe primarily covers college football, men's and women's basketball and softball as a reporter, as well as the NBA and WNBA. She has also provided play-by-play commentary for women's college basketball, softball, volleyball and gymnastics. In addition, Rowe has covered soccer, swimming, track & field and the Little League World Series of baseball and softball for ESPN. She plays a role in espnW's coverage of the sports she works on. Rowe also continues to serve as the reporter for the Women's Final Four.

Rowe is an Emmy-nominated producer and writer of documentaries and features that have aired on KBYU TV, ESPN and FOX 13 TV in Salt Lake City.

"Holly is one of the best in the business," comments Kathy Nelson, President & CEO of the Kansas City Sports Commission. "She has also been a long-time friend and supporter of WIN for KC so it is only fitting that she would be a part of this exciting celebration."

The WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration presented by [Burns & McDonnell](#) is the largest celebration of [National Girls and Women in Sports Day](#) in the country. This annual event recognizes women and girls throughout the community who are making a difference through sports. It is a key fundraising initiative to support WIN for KC's 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.



The 25th annual WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration presented by Burns & McDonnell will be held Friday, February 8, 2019 in the Grand Ballroom at the Kansas City Convention Center. The 2019 luncheon co-chairs are Lisa Ginter, CEO at CommunityAmerica Credit Union and Angie Hurt, CEO and Founder of Veracity Consulting.

To inquire about table sponsorships, please contact WIN for KC Director Jessica Blubaugh at [jblubaugh@sportkc.org](mailto:jblubaugh@sportkc.org). For more information about the award categories, please visit [www.winforkluncheon.org](http://www.winforkluncheon.org).

#### **About WIN for KC**

The Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC), was established in 1994 under the umbrella of the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission, 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](#).

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