

WIN FOR KC



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Simone Biles to be the featured guest at the 2019 WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration ESPN commentator, Holly Rowe, to serve as Emcee

KANSAS CITY, MO (January 18, 2019) – The Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC) is excited to announce that the featured guest for the 2019 WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards Celebration presented by Burns & McDonnell will be World Champion gymnast and ESPN's Most Dominant Athlete of 2018, **Simone Biles**.

Biles is a four-time Gold Medalist in Vault, Floor, Individual and Team All-Around. She is no stranger to boasting "firsts" as she is:

- The first woman to win four World All-Around titles (and three consecutively)
- The first American to medal in every single event at the World Championships and the first female to do so in 31 years
- The first woman to capture four gold medals at a single World Championships (2014, 2015, 2018)
- The first American woman in 23 years to win three All-Around National titles
- The first female African-American All-Around World Champion



Biles accomplished all of this while taking home more World Championship gold medals than ANY gymnast in history, remaining undefeated in the All-Around competition since 2013, garnering a plethora of awards and emerging as a global influencer.

"By simply uttering the name *Simone Biles* you elicit an awed chorus of 'ooohs and aaahs' from a room full of people. We can't wait to welcome her to Kansas City and are especially excited given that we are set to host the 2019 U.S. Gymnastics Championships here in August," says Jessica Blubaugh, Director of WIN for KC. "We couldn't have made this exciting element 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.

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

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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 ESPN'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."

Venus Williams was previously announced as keynote speaker for the event, however due to an unforeseen tennis-related conflict; she is no longer able to attend.

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. For more information about the award categories and to nominate a candidate for consideration, please visit www.winforkcluncheon.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. For the latest on WIN for KC news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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