

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KINDNESS IS COOL! AN IMPACTFUL DAY OF LEADERSHIP AND PEER TRAINING AT PLAYWORKS ANNUAL JUNIOR COACH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Washington, DC, March 25, 2019 -- [Playworks of Greater Washington DC](#) and [Monumental Sports & Entertainment Foundation](#) co-hosted the 2019 Playworks Annual Junior Coach Leadership Conference (JCLC) on Thursday, March 14, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Elementary school students from across the DMV converged on the Capital One Arena floor for a day of team building, learning, awards, and getting to know other students.

The Junior Coaches used play to learn about leadership, inclusion, facilitation skills, healthy community, goal setting, and more. Our young leaders work hard all year to serve as positive role models at recess *and* in the classroom! Students attend weekly on-site trainings, as demonstrated by their behavior.

“These children are our next generation of leaders. The sooner we can start teaching them how to treat each other respectfully, the better their future and ours” - Brendan Hurley, Event Co-chair and CMO of Goodwill of Greater Washington.

This year’s youth awards ceremony was co-hosted by sports anchor/director [Darren Haynes](#) of WUSA9 and radio show host, [Angie Ange](#) of WKYS who announced the winners of the four awards and presented them to students who most exemplify Playworks values of Respect, Inclusion, Healthy Play and Healthy Community. Other exciting speakers and workshop leaders included OnRae LaTeal of the Black Girls Handgames Project, Coppin State Tennis Coach Ebonye Jones, Assistant General Manager of the Mystics and game genius, Maria Giovanetti.

Junior coaches reported among their most memorable experiences of the day, having a tremendous time bonding together with students from other schools through play and learning additional skills to ensure safe and healthy play at school.

“...I liked when we learned about how to be respectful and include everyone and all the games we did.” -- Natalia, Junior Coach Leader

About Playworks

Playworks’s mission is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play. Today, Playworks is the leading national nonprofit leveraging the power of play to transform children’s social and emotional health. Playworks currently serves more than 1,800 schools across the United States and reaches more than 900,000 students directly and through professional training services.

Playworks builds play into leadership through the Playworks Junior Coach Leadership Program, which encourages teams of students to work together to learn games, fair play, and positive conflict resolution strategies. Junior Coaches (4th and 5th grade students) are then equipped to teach these skills and lessons appropriately to their classmates.

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