

For Immediate Release

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*****MEDIA ADVISORY For Wednesday August 3, 2016*****

Ohio's Olympic Athletes Inspire Success

Paralympic games promote deeper learning of life skills to Ohio youth with disabilities

COLUMBUS, OH – Paralympic athletes encourage young adults to develop the soft skills needed for success in sports and in life, like the ability to collaborate, to think critically, to communicate effectively and to problem solve.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD), Adaptive Sports of Ohio and Champions for America's Future (CHAMPS) are hosting their own Paralympic games for youth to demonstrate the importance of these skills.

Sixty young adults with disabilities from all over Ohio will participate in these games. The youth are part of a five-day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students as part of the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities' Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). Adaptive Sports of Ohio, which has partnered with the US Olympic Committee to launch Paralympic Sport Ohio, will offer YLF participants their own Paralympic-like experience, enabling the teens to explore their athletic potential across many types of adaptive sports including visual, hearing, and mobility challenges. Local Paralympic athletes will attend and support participants throughout the competition.

WHO: Kevin Miller, Director Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
Blake Haxton, Paralympian, Rowing. Commissioner, OOD
Casey Followay, Paralympian, Track and Field

WHAT: Press Conference & Adaptive Sports Program of Ohio Activities

WHEN: Wednesday, August 3rd, at 1:30pm

WHERE: Embassy Suites Airport (Ballroom)
2886 Airport Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43219

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities is the State of Ohio agency that partners with Ohioans with disabilities to achieve quality employment and independence. They are dedicated to preparing high school students for career and life success through the Ohio Transition Support Partnership found in both career technical and traditional school districts across Ohio.

Champions for America's Future is a national network of sports leaders championing proven public investments in youth to create a stronger, healthier America.