



# COACH INCLUSION SUMMIT

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June 12-14, 2026 | [Kansas City, MO](#)



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## FRIDAY | JUNE 12 | LOEWS HOTEL KANSAS CITY

Time	Title	Speaker	Location
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>Check In + Lunch</b>		Hotel Lobby (Registration) Neptune Ballroom D (Lunch)
12:00 - 12:15 PM	<b>Welcome</b>	Andrea Snead, USTA	Mermaid Ballroom
12:15 - 1:45 PM	<b>Session 1: It's All About Trust</b>	Ajit Dodani, EmpathifyU	Mermaid Ballroom
1:50 - 3:20 PM	<b>Session 2: Inclusive Coaching</b>	Kurt Weaver, You Can Play	Mermaid Ballroom
3:20 - 3:30 PM	<b>BREAK</b>		
3:30 - 4:50 PM	<b>Session 3: Leading On and Beyond The Court</b>	Toni Wiley, Sportsman's Tennis & Enrichment Center	Mermaid Ballroom
4:50 - 5:00 PM	<b>Closing</b>	Mauricio Murillo, USTA	Mermaid Ballroom
5:00 - 7:00 PM	<b>Welcome Reception</b>		Neptune Ballroom D

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## SATURDAY | JUNE 13 | PLAZA TENNIS CENTER

Time	Title	Speaker/Lead	Location
7:30 AM	<b>Transportation to The Plaza Tennis Center</b>		Loews Hotel Kansas City
8:00 - 8:15 AM	<b>Welcome</b>		Plaza Tennis Center
8:15 - 9:15 AM	<b>High Performance Drills</b>	Darnesha Moore, USTA Coaching	Plaza Tennis Center
9:30 - 11:45 AM	<b>Wheelchair Workshop</b>	Shelby Baron, USTA	Plaza Tennis Center
	<b>Blind &amp; Visually Impaired Workshop</b>	Dana Squelch-Costa	Plaza Tennis Center
11:45AM - 1:15 PM	<b>Off-Site Lunch</b>		Buca di Beppo, 310 West 47th Street
1:30 - 5:00 PM	<b>Intro to Coaching Workshop</b>	Michael Harper Marissa Brown Laura Puryear	Plaza Tennis Center
5:15 PM	<b>Closing</b>	Darnesha Moore, USTA Coaching	Plaza Tennis Center
5:30 PM	<b>Transportation to Loews Hotel Kansas City</b>		Plaza Tennis Center
	<b>Dinner on Own</b>		

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## SUNDAY | JUNE 14 | LOEWS HOTEL KANSAS CITY

Time	Title	Speaker	Location
7:00 - 8:00AM	<b>Breakfast</b>		Neptune D
8:15 - 8:30 AM	<b>Welcome</b>	Andrea Snead, USTA	Mermaid Ballroom
8:30 - 9:45 AM	<b>Session 4: Women in Coaching: Built for Her</b>	Megan Rose, USTA Coaching Ahsha Rolle Jennifer Gelhaus Daniella Reidmiller	Mermaid Ballroom
9:50 AM - 11:05 PM	<b>Session 5: The State of Racquet Sports Leadership</b>	Dr. Jason Allen, USTA Andrea Flores, USTA Apprentice Diego Leal Reyes, USTA Apprentice	Mermaid Ballroom
11:10 - 12:25 AM	<b>Session 6: The Spokes of Life</b>	Harsha Dodani, EmpathifyU	Mermaid Ballroom
12:25 - 12:35 PM	<b>Closing Remarks + Summit Wrap Up</b>	Megan Rose, USTA Coaching	Mermaid Ballroom

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## **Ajit Dodani, CEO & Founder EmpathifyU**

Ajit Dodani is an empathy strategist, leadership coach, and author whose work focuses on sustainable performance, trust, and human behavior. As the creator of The Trust Formula<sup>©</sup> and The Empathy Strategy Framework<sup>©</sup>, he helps leaders and coaches build high-performing environments rooted in trust, clarity, and belonging. Drawing from experience coaching executives, leadership teams, coaches, and young people, Ajit is known for high-energy sessions that translate complex coaching and leadership concepts into practical, actionable strategies.



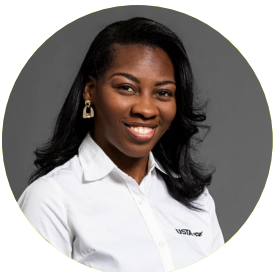
## **Kurt Weaver, Executive Director You Can Play**

Kurt Weaver serves as Executive Director of You Can Play, leading efforts to advance inclusion in sport through education, advocacy, and support. His background spans campaign politics, fundraising, and sports leadership, including serving as Head of Rugby Development and COO for USA Rugby. An elite coach and referee educator for World Rugby, Kurt brings extensive leadership experience and a deep commitment to creating more inclusive athletic environments.



## **Toni Wiley, Chief Executive Officer Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center**

Toni Wiley has served as CEO of Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center since 2008, bringing more than 20 years of corporate and nonprofit leadership experience. Under her leadership, Sportsmen's has expanded to serve more than 5,000 youth and nearly 1,000 adults annually while completing a \$20 million capital campaign and facility expansion. Toni also serves in national tennis leadership roles, including 1st Vice President of the American Tennis Association, 2nd Vice President of USTA New England, and Chair of USTA's National DE&I Committee.



## **Darnesha Moore, Senior Manager Coach Education Delivery, USTA Coaching**

Darnesha Moore is a former Division I collegiate tennis coach and national coach education leader dedicated to advancing coach development and inclusion in tennis. Through her work at USTA Coaching, she designs and delivers educational initiatives that support coaches at every level while helping create more equitable and welcoming pathways into the sport. Her work is rooted in education, mentorship, and innovation to shape the future of the game.

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## **Michael Harper Jr., Founder** **Harper Sports Management & Consulting / MH Tennis**

Michael Harper Jr. is a high-performance coach, coach educator, and founder of MH Tennis with more than 20 years of experience in player development and tennis leadership. A former Division I athlete at Morgan State University and former National Manager at the USTA National Campus, he specializes in foundational junior development, high-performance coaching, and the psychology of peak performance. Known for his “Development by Design” philosophy, Michael integrates technical, tactical, and mindset development to help athletes and coaches achieve sustainable success.



## **Shelby Baron, National Manager** **Wheelchair Tennis, USTA**

Shelby Baron is a former professional wheelchair tennis player and Paralympian who now serves as USTA’s National Manager of Wheelchair Tennis. She brings a unique blend of elite athlete experience, coaching, and national leadership to the role. A certified USTA Coaching professional with more than a decade of coaching experience, she has worked extensively in junior, collegiate, and adaptive tennis development, including coaching the University of Alabama’s championship-winning wheelchair tennis program.



## **Rebecca Falkner Axelrod, Executive Director** **USTA Heart of America**

Rebecca Falkner Axelrod is Executive Director of USTA Heart of America and a passionate advocate for adaptive and inclusive tennis. A former collegiate student-athlete and certified tennis professional, she serves on the ACEing Autism Board of Directors and USTA National Adaptive Committee leading initiatives that expand access to the sport.



## **Dana Squelch-Costa** **Blind Tennis Consultant; Founder & Past President, U.S. Blind Tennis**

Dana Squelch-Costa is a nationally recognized leader in adaptive tennis and a pioneer in blind and visually impaired (BVI) tennis in the United States. With more than 15 years of volunteer leadership and a background in education, she developed the nation’s first tennis curriculum designed specifically for BVI athletes and co-founded the Association of Coaching Excellence in Blind Tennis. Dana continues to serve as a consultant, educator, and advocate expanding access to tennis nationwide.

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## **Chris Stuart, Manager** **Schools & Community Engagement, USTA Arkansas**

Chris Stuart serves as Manager of Schools and Community Engagement for USTA Arkansas and has been a longtime advocate for adaptive tennis throughout the Southern Section. With more than 20 years of experience in tennis, Chris has helped lead major adaptive initiatives, including blind and low-vision programming expansion. He brings extensive coaching, organizational, and community engagement expertise to his work growing inclusive tennis opportunities.



## **Marissa Brown, Managing Director** **Play & Competition, USTA Missouri Valley**

Marissa Brown is Managing Director of Play & Competition for USTA Missouri Valley and a lifelong tennis player with experience spanning junior, collegiate, league, and professional instruction. A certified tennis professional through USTA Coaching, RSPA, and PTR, she has led programs in both public and private settings and brings broad expertise in player development, coach support, and participation growth.



## **Laura Puryear, Senior Director** **Coach Development & Training and Volunteer Engagement,** **USTA Missouri Valley**

Laura Puryear has spent nearly three decades with USTA Missouri Valley leading coach education, volunteer engagement, and player development initiatives. Her coaching experience spans public and private facilities, high school coaching, university instruction, and adult leagues, making her a respected leader in coach development. Laura's contributions have been recognized with national industry awards, including the 2024 USTA/PTR Community Service Award.



## **Megan Rose, Managing Director** **Head of Business Development & Operations, USTA Coaching**

Megan Rose leads business development, operations, and coach engagement for USTA Coaching, overseeing strategies that support coach recruitment, retention, and industry growth. Her career includes leadership roles across the USTA, WTA, collegiate coaching, and professional competition, including serving as Team Leader for Team USA Olympic Tennis. A former five-time NCAA All-American and recognized sports industry leader, Megan is passionate about inclusive leadership, mentorship, and innovation in tennis.

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## **Ahsha Rolle, Executive Director NYJTL Cary Leeds Center**

Ahsha Rolle is Executive Director of NYJTL's Cary Leeds Center, where she oversees high-performance training, community programming, and coach development initiatives. A former WTA Top 100 professional, she brings elite competitive experience and more than 15 years in tennis leadership to her work expanding equitable access and developing future leaders through the sport.



## **Jennifer Gelhaus, Director of Racquets The Club at Renaissance**

Jennifer Gelhaus is Director of Racquets at The Club at Renaissance in Fort Myers, Florida, with 16 years of coaching and leadership experience. Recognized for her expertise in coach education and performance development, she focuses on staff leadership, competitive excellence, and sustainable program growth.



## **Maria "Daniella" Reidmiller Head Tennis Coach, Buena High School; Owner, Tennis Unbounded**

Maria "Daniella" Reidmiller is Head Tennis Coach at Buena High School and owner of Tennis Unbounded, bringing extensive experience in high school coaching, coach collaboration, and coach education. A USTA Southwest High School Coach of the Year, she serves on the USTA SAZ Advisory Council and leads municipal tennis programs.



## **Dr. Jason Allen, Director Racquet Sports Management Apprenticeship, USTA**

Dr. Jason Allen is Director of the Racquet Sports Management Apprenticeship at the USTA National Campus and an accomplished leader in racquet sports education, adaptive tennis, and coach development. With more than 25 years of experience across leadership, research, education, and sport management, he has served in key USTA leadership roles, including Wheelchair Tennis and coaching curriculum development. A published researcher and Wheelchair Tennis Professional of the Year in 2022, Jason is deeply committed to growing the future of the tennis industry.

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## **Andrea Flores, USTA Apprentice Racquet Sports Management Apprenticeship**

Andrea Flores is a racquet sports professional with more than a decade of coaching, management, tournament operations, and tennis business experience. A former top-30 junior player in Mexico who competed on the ITF circuit, Andrea has led UTR and USTA tournaments, coordinated league programming, and supported tennis retail operations. She is passionate about developing players and growing community engagement in the sport.



## **Diego Leal Reyes, USTA Apprentice Racquet Sports Management Apprenticeship**

Diego Leal Reyes is a former professional tennis player and racquet sports leader with more than nine years of experience spanning administration, coaching, and community engagement. Originally from Colombia, he brings a global perspective, operational expertise, and a strong passion for growing tennis participation through leadership.



## **Harsha Dodani, Chief Heart Officer EmpathifyU**

Harsha Dodani's work is focused on helping individuals achieve sustainable success through holistic alignment. Through her signature frameworks and workshops, she explores the connection between personal wellbeing and professional performance, helping participants lead with authenticity, empathy, and intentionality. Her background includes leadership in employee experience, social enterprise, and youth empowerment initiatives centered on storytelling and human connection.

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## The Team Behind the Summit



**Marisa Grimes**  
Chief Diversity,  
Equity & Inclusion, USTA



**Megan Rose**  
Managing Director, Head  
of Business Development &  
Operations, USTA Coaching



**Ta Karra Jones**  
Sr. Manager Coach  
Experience, USTA Coaching  
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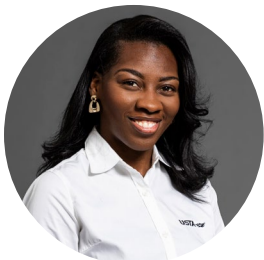
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With Special Thanks to Our Host: **USTA**  **MISSOURI VALLEY**

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## Things To Do in the City

Kansas City offers a vibrant mix of culture, cuisine, sports, and entertainment that makes it an unforgettable destination. From world-class attractions like the National WWI Museum and Memorial, Union Station, and renowned arts institutions to its legendary jazz heritage, championship sports energy, and iconic barbecue scene, KC blends Midwest hospitality with big-city experiences. Visitors can explore eclectic neighborhoods, enjoy a thriving food and nightlife scene, discover family-friendly attractions, and experience the city's signature creative spirit around every corner. Explore all that Kansas City has to offer through [Visit KC](#).

