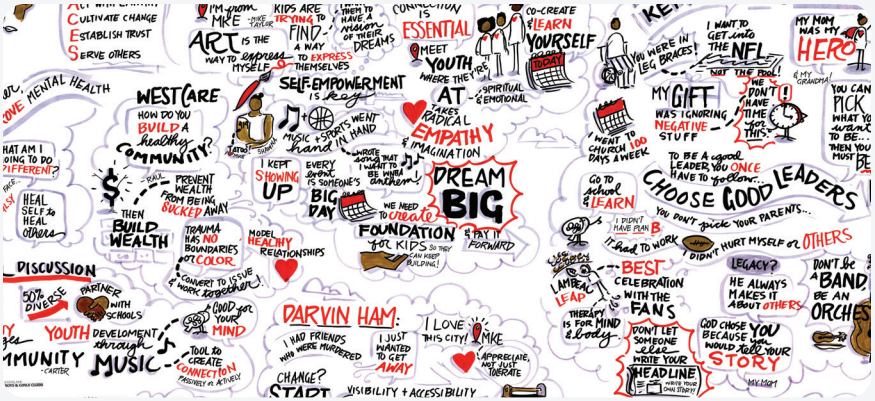


STRYV365'S 4TH ANNUAL

TRAUMA SYMPOSIUM

STRYVING 4 CARE:
SHARING HOPE, RESTORING STRENGTH



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

9:00AM-11:45 AM CST

PRAIRIE SPRINGS ON PARK
1420 E PARK PL, MILWAUKEE, WI

WWW.STRYV365.ORG





Symposium Agenda

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

**ARRIVALS, REFRESHMENTS,
AND EXHIBIT HALL**



9:00 AM - 9:10 AM

**WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS,
AND CALL TO ACTION**

Mayor Cavalier Johnson &
Dr. Brandon Currie

9:10 AM - 9:40 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderated by Melanie Ricks

9:40 AM - 10:10 AM

**ORGANIZED BREAK-OUT/
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY**
All Guests

10:10 AM - 10:50 AM

KEYNOTE CONVO
Steve Smith

10:50 AM - 11:00 AM

AWARD PRESENTATION
Tom Hurvis Lifetime Achievement
Award

11:00 AM - 11:40 AM

KEYNOTE CONVO
Bobby Portis

11:40 AM - 11:45 AM

CLOSING





Dr. Brandon Currie, PhD



Chief Executive Officer

STRYV365

Dr. Brandon Currie is an athlete, coach, educator, guidance counselor, and community leader whose career reflects a lifelong commitment to youth development and education. A graduate of Brown Deer High School, he went on to attend Butler University, where he became the most celebrated tennis player in school history and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at both Brown Deer and Butler.

Off the court, Dr. Currie earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, a Master of Science in School Counseling and Psychology, and a Doctorate in Urban Education. His professional accomplishments include coaching Division I men's tennis, serving as a public school guidance counselor for 10 years, authoring the children's books *Deuce Point* and *You Play What*, and collaborating on three published articles connected to the STRYV365 research study. He also founded and operated the West Indy Racquet Club to serve youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and taught college courses in Foundations of Mental Health Counseling, Psychopathology, and Advanced Diagnosis.

Dr. Currie founded STRYV365 with the belief that building relationships and offering safety to youth is vital in combating childhood trauma.



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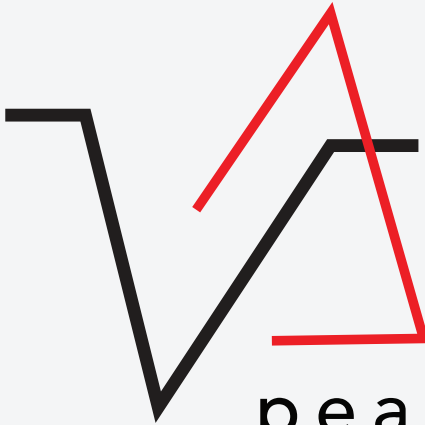


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STRYV365 PROGRAMMING



peak team

peak team is STRYV365's foundational Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program built on STRYV365's proprietary Trauma-informed Resiliency curriculum of the same name. **peak team** offers partners programs and resources that consist of interactive activities designed to build resiliency and support recovery from traumatic life experiences. **peak team** is provided through coaching, mentoring, and is often implemented in educational settings such as the classroom, gym and after-school programs/sports.

CRAFT



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COPE



COMMUNICATION



OFFERING



POSITIVITY



EMPOWERMENT

Moderator



Melanie Ricks

Sideline/Digital Reporter,
Milwaukee Bucks

A Milwaukee native, Melanie Ricks is a dynamic sports media personality with over 15 years of experience in entertainment and reporting. Currently, she serves as the Sideline & Digital Reporter for the Milwaukee Bucks, delivering in-depth coverage and fan engagement across all home games. She also hosts the popular radio talk show, *Nothin' But the Truth*, on 101.7FM The Truth, where she offers insightful commentary on sports and culture.

Melanie's journey with the Bucks began at the age of 12 when she joined the junior dance team. She later danced professionally for the team for four seasons before transitioning into her current role as in-arena host. Her passion for connecting with fans and her vibrant energy have made her a beloved figure in Wisconsin sports media.

Beyond her work with the Bucks, Melanie is a dedicated advocate for youth empowerment and community engagement. She is committed to using her platform to inspire and uplift others, making her a valuable voice in both sports journalism and community development.

Panelist



Dr. Connie Gundacker

Associate Professor & Section Chief, General and Community Pediatrics, Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Constance Gundacker is an accomplished pediatrician, educator, and researcher dedicated to advancing child health and well-being. She serves as Associate Professor and Section Chief for General and Community Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and is the Physician Lead for Children's Midtown Clinic.

Her clinical work informs her research and educational initiatives, which focus on trauma-informed care, social-emotional learning, and building resilience in children. She collaborates with organizations like STRYV365 to promote positive childhood experiences and prepare healthcare professionals to provide compassionate care.

Dr. Gundacker earned her MD from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, a Master of Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and completed her pediatric residency at UC Davis Health. She also completed a fellowship in Academic Primary Care Research and the Clinical Research Scholars Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Through her practice, teaching, and research, Dr. Gundacker is deeply committed to nurturing healthy, resilient children and families.

Panelist



Darnell Hamilton

Executive Director, Future Urban Leaders

Darnell Hamilton is a passionate educator and community leader dedicated to empowering Milwaukee's youth. As Executive Director of Future Urban Leaders, he leads initiatives that serve students from grades K4 through 12, focusing on leadership development, self-identity exploration, mindfulness education, and college and career readiness. Under his leadership, the organization has expanded its reach, impacting hundreds of students and fostering a sense of community among participants, families, and supporters.

Before his tenure at Future Urban Leaders, Hamilton spent over a decade as a special education teacher and district coach for new educators within Milwaukee Public Schools. His commitment to education and community service has earned him recognition, including the 2024 AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year award.

Through his work, Hamilton exemplifies the power of community engagement and the transformative impact of education in building resilience and opportunity for Milwaukee's youth.

Panelist



Paul Krupski

STRYV365 Board Member, Policy Director at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

Paul was named Policy Director at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) in June 2023. He has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of substance use and public health, which includes work at the local, county and state levels.

His work has centered on implementing evidence-based policies, programs, and strategies to create healthier and safer communities. Paul previously worked at DHS as a Prevention Coordinator with the Division of Care and Treatment Services Substance Use Services Section; the Statewide Training Coordinator with the Division of Public Health Office of Preparedness and Emergency Healthcare; and most recently served as the inaugural Director of Opioid Initiatives within the Office of the Secretary.

Prior to working for DHS, Paul was the Policy Director for a non-profit organization in Madison and spent 10 years working for a community-based non-profit organization in San Diego, California.

Panelist



Stevie Mitchell

Marquette Basketball Player, STRYV365 NIL Ambassador

Stevie Mitchell is a distinguished student-athlete, leader, and role model whose achievements span athletics, academics, and community impact. As a senior guard for Marquette, he has earned numerous honors including 2024-25 BIG EAST Scholar-Athlete of the Year and CSC First Team Academic All-America. Excelling in the classroom, he maintains a 3.974 GPA while double-majoring in finance and information systems.

On the court, Stevie is known for his defensive presence, ranking among Marquette's all-time leaders in steals and earning recognition as a semifinalist for the Naismith Defensive Player of the Year Award. Beyond athletics, he demonstrates a deep commitment to service and leadership, chairing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, serving on the NCAA student-athlete engagement group, and volunteering in initiatives that promote literacy and youth development.

As both a competitor and a mentor, Stevie embodies the values of resilience, integrity, and excellence, making him a powerful role model for young people.



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HAFA is a non-profit organization funded by non-profit institutions and government agencies to improve the quality of life for Asian families. We work in collaboration with other programs and agencies to serve members of the Southeast Asian population in the Greater Milwaukee area.



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STRYV365 PROGRAMMING



STRYVtime is a transformative mentoring program designed to foster the holistic development of participants by integrating social-emotional learning (SEL) skills within the school environment. Recognizing the critical role of mentoring relationships in a student's life, this program aims to empower participants by cultivating their emotional intelligence, interpersonal skills, and overall well-being.

STRYVtime is most often implemented in a school setting, engaging experienced and compassionate mentors who work closely with participants to support their social-emotional growth. Through individualized mentorship, group activities, and targeted workshops, this program strives to equip students with the necessary skills to navigate both academic challenges and personal development.

STRYVtime's impact can be seen in improved student engagement, increased empathy and understanding among peers, enhanced conflict resolution abilities, and an overall positive school climate. By fostering meaningful mentor-mentee relationships and integrating **peak team**, our program empowers participants to develop essential competencies, equipping them with lifelong skills for success and well-being. Through this holistic approach, **STRYVtime** creates a supportive environment where students can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially.





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Keynote Convo



Steve Smith

Philanthropist, NBA All-Star & Champion, NBA Analyst

Steven Delano Smith is a nationally recognized athlete who redefined the term “sports star” through excellence and generosity in the NBA and beyond. A proud Michigan State University alum (1987–1991), he became the Spartans’ all-time leading scorer and a two-time First Team All-American. Drafted fifth overall by the Miami Heat in 1991, Smith enjoyed a 14-season NBA career with Miami, Atlanta, Portland, San Antonio, New Orleans and Charlotte, winning a championship with the Spurs in 2003.

Honored with the Joe Dumars Sportsmanship Award and inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame in 2006, Smith is equally celebrated for his philanthropy. Inspired by values instilled by his mother, he founded the Clara Bell Smith Student-Athlete Academic Center and funds the Steve Smith/Pershing High/MSU scholarship, raising millions for students and local communities.

Now residing in Atlanta, Smith is the proud father of Brayden and Davis, who follow his Michigan State legacy. He continues to champion education and social change for future generations.



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The 50 Ways Foundation is dedicated to impacting the lives of today's youth. To inspire and empower our youth by providing mentorship, new experiences, and resources that can create different opportunities for them to be successful.



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STRYV365 PROGRAMMING

VARI RIS

RESILIENCE IN SPORTS

Resilience plays a critical role in both the mental health and performance of student athletes, coaches, and caregivers alike. By building a basic understanding of how stress affects the brain and body, coaches and caregivers can use practical strategies that support resilience in times of uncertainty -- strategies that promote well-being and optimize athletic performance.

Resilience In Sports (RIS) is a trauma-informed program designed for athletic directors, coaches, caregivers, and sport staff, with a focus on supporting the well-being and performance of student athletes. **RIS** equips coaches and caregivers with knowledge and tools to better understand the impact of stress and trauma -- on athletes and on themselves. By fostering emotional awareness, effective communication, and a supportive environment, **RIS** helps build a culture where everyone—athletes, coaches, and caregivers—feels seen, supported, and set up for success beyond the game.





The Tom Hurvis Achievement Award

Honoring Vision, Integrity, and Community Impact

STRYV365 is proud to introduce the Tom Hurvis Achievement Award, an annual recognition created to celebrate the enduring values and leadership exemplified by visionary, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, Tom Hurvis.



Tom Hurvis co-founded Old World Industries, building iconic brands such as PEAK and BlueDEF from the ground up. His career stands as a testament to innovation, strategic thinking, and relentless perseverance. Yet Tom's greatest legacy extends far beyond business. A passionate advocate for education, mentorship, and community development, Tom has invested decades in supporting programs that create opportunity, nurture talent, and empower the next generation. From championing technical training initiatives to fostering partnerships that strengthen communities, his impact has been both broad and deeply personal.

The Tom Hurvis Achievement Award honors these qualities—integrity, vision, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to uplifting others. It reflects Tom's belief that true success lies not only in enterprise but in empowering people and building stronger, healthier communities.

Each year, STRYV365 will present this award to an individual whose life and work embody the same principles that have guided Tom Hurvis throughout his journey. The honoree will be someone who demonstrates innovative leadership, dedication to equity, and an unwavering focus on positive change—values that are embedded into the core of STRYV365's mission to empower youth and strengthen communities.

Through this award, we aim to preserve Tom's legacy, inspire current and future leaders, and reaffirm our collective commitment to service, mentorship, and community transformation.

The Tom Hurvis Achievement Award is more than an honor; it is a call to action—a reminder that lasting impact is achieved by those who combine vision with compassion, and success with service.





Keynote Convo



Bobby Portis Jr.

Underdog, The Bobby Portis Foundation,
NBA Champion

Bobby Portis is a dynamic forward for the Milwaukee Bucks, known for his intensity, resilience, and unwavering commitment to his team and community. Standing 6'10", Portis was selected by the Chicago Bulls with the 22nd overall pick in the 2015 NBA Draft. After stints with the Bulls, Wizards, and Knicks, he joined the Bucks in 2020, becoming a pivotal figure in their 2021 NBA Championship victory.

Throughout his career, Portis has been recognized for his exceptional performance off the bench, earning third-place finishes in the NBA Sixth Man of the Year Award in both 2023 and 2024. In the 2024-25 season, he averaged 13.9 points, 8.4 rebounds, and 2.1 assists per game.

Off the court, Portis is deeply involved in community initiatives, particularly those supporting youth and education. His passion for giving back to the Milwaukee community is evident through various outreach programs and partnerships. Portis's journey from a promising rookie to a seasoned NBA veteran exemplifies perseverance, dedication, and the power of resilience.



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THE BOBBY PORTIS



FOUNDATION

THE #UNDERDOG WAY

"Obviously everybody's path is different. Some people always had it, they made it to where they are and they're successful. Some people had to go through things and grind through things to get there. I'm kind of really thankful for my journey. I think my journey is what made me the underdog." - Bobby Portis



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Symposium DJ



Shawna Nichols

Official DJ & Producer for the Milwaukee Bucks

Shawna Nichols, known as DJ Shawna, has made her mark on both national and global stages. A former professional athlete, her journey has always been fueled by a lasting passion for music. As her athletic career came to a close, Shawna traded her sports gear for a turntable, blending her two loves—music and sports—into a powerful new path.

Today, she is celebrated as the Official DJ and Producer for the Milwaukee Bucks. Career highlights include energizing the NBA Bubble, setting the vibe for three NBA All-Star games, and sharing in the excitement of an NBA World Championship. Beyond the NBA, Shawna brings her sound to major events such as the NCAA Women's Final Four and the 2020 Ryder Cup. She has also opened for artists including Lizzo, Ani DeFranco, DJ Diesel (Shaq), and Jonas Blue.

Off the stage, Shawna leads the "Dare To Be" clothing line, a reflection of her mantra of boldness and resilience. Through her music, children's book, podcast, and motivational speaking, she spreads love and positivity, proving the transformative power of a positive mindset and inspiring others to chase their dreams.



Graphic Artist



Sherrill Knezel

Meaningful Marks

Sherrill Knezel is a graphic recorder, illustrator, art educator, and the founder of Meaningful Marks LLC, based in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin metro area. Through her creative practice, Sherrill uses visuals and the art of graphic recording to uplift voices, highlight key ideas, and amplify the work of nonprofits, educators, and corporate sector clients. Her live visual storytelling helps organizations capture meaningful conversations and spark generative, transformative change within their communities.

In addition to her client work, Sherrill designs and leads engaging visual literacy workshops that empower people of all backgrounds to use simple visuals to increase connection, clarity, and collaboration in their own work and lives. Her belief that images can bridge understanding fuels her mission to make complex ideas more accessible and memorable.

Sherrill is the author of *Heart Speak: A Visual Interpretation of Let Your Life Speak* and a contributing author to *Social Action Stories: Impact Tales for The School & Community*. Through Meaningful Marks, she continues to inspire creativity and meaningful dialogue wherever her pen travels.



STRYV365 extends our sincere gratitude to Senator Tammy Baldwin, Mayor Cavalier Johnson, and Dr. John Meurer, as well as Tom and Ann Hurvis, for their ongoing commitment to our mission. We also thank our event sponsors and community partners whose support makes our programs possible.

Our ability to positively impact the youth in our community is made possible by your financial generosity. If you would like to help advance our mission, please visit our website or contact us at info@stryv365.org.

VISIBILITY + ACCESSIBILITY = OPPORTUNITY



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