

**Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award honors
Kinesiology professor Dan Gould and Think Detroit Police
Athletic League**

***Partnership produces results for positive youth development through sport
and physical activity***

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – A longstanding and effective partnership between [MSU's Institute for the Study of Youth Sports \(ISYS\)](#) and the [Think Detroit Police Athletic League \(Think Detroit PAL\)](#) has trained coaches and volunteers, evaluated programs, and produced measurable outcomes for thousands involved with youth sports in the City of Detroit. The partnership is now being recognized as an outstanding university-community collaboration.



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Daniel R. Gould, professor in the College of Education's Department of Kinesiology, and ISYS director, along with community partner Think Detroit PAL, were named co-recipients of the Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award during the annual MSU Awards Convocation on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Tim Richey, current chief executive officer of Think Detroit PAL, and Dan Varner, founding CEO, represent the organization for the award.

The partnership began seven years ago between Gould, Varner, and Richey, who was then director of athletics at Think Detroit PAL. At Varner's request, Gould and Dr. Larry Lauer, ISYS director of coaching education, conducted training in positive youth development through sport for a group of Think Detroit PAL coaches. A coaching education program for 1,500 coaches and managers followed, aimed at building character in young people through youth sports. The program has been used to train over 5,000 Think Detroit PAL coaches and managers over the past five years, impacting thousands of Detroit youth.

"We share this award with our teams at ISYS and Think Detroit PAL, as well as the more than 11,000 youth, Detroit police officers and community volunteers participating yearly in those athletic, academic, and leadership development programs," said Gould.

Current Think Detroit PAL CEO Tim Richey is an MSU alum who played defender and midfielder on the MSU soccer team from 1989 to 1993. "Our goal is to build character in young people through athletic, academic, and leadership development

programs, and Dan Gould, Larry Lauer, and the entire ISYS team have made significant contributions to our efforts. By listening and working with our staff, coaches and community volunteers they have been able to evaluate programs and trainings and help us identify ways to clarify, improve, and communicate our key objectives.”

“As a result of our partnership with MSU we have been able to sharpen our focus and our ability to convey our effectiveness to local leaders, funders, policymakers, and others who believe positive experiences in sports and physical activity can make the difference in young lives,” said Richey.

MSU’s Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award is conferred annually and provides University-wide recognition of highly engaged community-based research collaborations that positively impact both the community and the scholarship of MSU faculty work.

Learn more about the Outreach Scholarship Community Partnership Award and past recipients at <http://outreach.msu.edu/awards/oscpa/>.

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