



October 29th, 2014

Announcement: Halton Sport Leadership Program Pilot to Launch in November 2014

The Halton Sport Leadership Program (HSLP) is a partnership with the Halton Poverty Roundtable, the Halton Catholic District School Board, the Halton District School Board, the Town of Milton, the Town of Oakville, and the YMCA of Oakville and will officially launch in November 2014. This new pilot program is intended to “turn the curve” for at-risk youth 15-18 years of age, by providing them with leadership and team-development training, a number of recreationally focussed certifications, and employment training. The goal is to inspire young people to make the personal changes needed to thrive, to develop confidence and to give back to their communities through meaningful employment.

The HSLP planning team is grateful to a private donor who came through the Oakville YMCA to fund the first year of the pilot in Oakville. High school students who participate in the pilot will come from St. Thomas Aquinas, T.A. Blakelock, and White Oaks.

The pilot lead team welcomes Lindsay Smith and Chris Opuku as the staff who will lead the initiative in action. Lindsay has accepted a 10 month contract as the program lead and will work directly with the high school participants. She will develop the curriculum and all related materials, key measures and evaluation tools and deliver the program. Lindsay currently works for the City of Toronto and is a previous participant of the Toronto Sport Leadership program. Lindsay is a passionate young woman who is dedicated to developing youth and building community. She has extensive experience coordinating youth-serving programs, events and initiatives. The team is confident that Lindsay will use her knowledge of the Toronto Sport Leadership program to enhance the pilot program in Halton.

Chris Opuku currently works with the City of Mississauga and has a great deal of experience developing and delivering recreational programs for children and youth. He has a strong enthusiasm for sport, and the value sport plays in building character in young people. Additionally, he is a strong advocate for youth and believes in providing them with the resources to discover their passion and reach their potential. Chris will be supporting Lindsay with the delivery of the Halton Sport Leadership program, and will have a specific focus on engaging Halton Sport Leadership participants in meaningful volunteer opportunities.

The HSLP team is confident that Lindsay and Chris will complement each other well, and will provide an incredible experience for HSLP pilot participants.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy Anderson".

Joy Anderson
Chair, Halton Sport Leadership Program