

YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who is a leader in junior golf, reflects the image and qualities that juniors can emulate, and provides opportunities for juniors to learn and play golf.

Leighann Albaugh, PGA
Magnolia Green Golf Club
Moseley, Virginia

Leighann Albaugh was selected as the recipient of the 2023 Youth Player Development Award for her contributions to growing community outreach through junior programming.

Leighann was born on December 2, 1979 in Rockford, Ill. to parents Dr. Donald and Meta Rastede. Her family also includes sister Lisa and brother Fred. Leighann began playing golf at the age of seven after her maternal grandfather introduced her to the game at his home club in Green Valley, Az. His intent was to occupy his energetic granddaughter during a visit over spring break. After spotting her potential and enthusiasm for the game, Leighann's maternal and paternal grandparents united in championing her journey through the game of golf.

Leighann's first golf related job was an internship after her freshman year at Methodist University in 1999. She interned at the Clinton Country Club in Clinton, IA. During her time at the university, Leighann was an NCAA Academic All-America, All America Honorable Mention, a member of the NCAA Division III National Championship Team (placed T4th individually), and co-captain of the women's golf team.

Throughout the years, she has held positions as a collegiate coach, assistant professional, head professional and instructor in the game/industry of golf. At Magnolia Green, she serves as the Director of Instruction and growing junior programming at the facility level has been a major part of her role. Her in-school community outreach program has continued to thrive and expand throughout its three years of existence. She has a structured curriculum for children ages 2-18 that includes competition, clinic, camp and adult/junior components. Leighann's programming is designed to utilize golf as a tool for the development and practice of motor skills, social skills, critical thinking & emotional regulation in a safe and positive learning environment.

Leighann's work has most recently been recognized by Golf Magazine as a 'Top 100 Teacher to Watch.' She has been named to numerous Golf Digest 'Best in State' and 'Best Young Teachers' lists. She is also a US Kids Master Kids Teacher. Over more than two decades, Leighann has refined, amended, and enhanced her process for youth golf instruction, cultivating a holistic approach to the sport, both mental and physical, that prepares junior players for a lifetime of engaging on the course. Sharing her approach with other instructors has created a strong, vibrant youth golf community both in her region and in other communities where she has trained instructors in how to approach junior instruction and develop their knowledge.

Leighann believes that her primary role as a golf professional, coach and instructor is to develop, inspire, motivate and support people to realize their fullest potential. She leads by example through the work ethic and values instilled in her by her parents and a dedication to lifelong learning. She believes in being continually curious. Throughout her playing, coaching and teaching careers she has been blessed with the opportunity to learn from many great instructors and coaches. Her passion is to give back to the game by passing on the knowledge others have instilled in her.

Leighann and her husband Jay have been married for 18 years and they have two dogs Quid and Finn.