



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

**CONTACT:**

Josefina Loza  
office@lozafina.com  
epicforgirls.org

## **EPIC for Girls Hosts the Inaugural "An EPIC Day with Dawn Staley" at College of Saint Mary Fieldhouse with Nearly 600 Attendees**

(OMAHA, NE) - "An EPIC Day," hosted by EPIC for Girls at the College of Saint Mary Fieldhouse, came alive with excitement and inspiration today. The inaugural event welcomed nearly 600 eager attendees, spotlighting the vital importance of sports and equal opportunity. The day's luminary was Dawn Staley, the celebrated Women's Basketball Head Coach for the University of South Carolina.

Participants from across the region, representing various organizations, highlighted the significance of establishing an equitable platform for all, especially in sports.

Ken Fox of the Black Police Officers' Association, coach of EPIC for Girls' softball team and an EPIC for Girls grant recipient, stated, "We created a couple of softball teams for girls who have never played, understanding the profound impact of sports in imparting life skills to young girls."

James "Coach Ice" Benford, Assistant Coach at Bellevue University and Founder of Retro Hoops Basketball, another EPIC for Girls Grant beneficiary, shared his enthusiasm: "I'm here to support the EPIC movement; to level the playing field and to spotlight the commitment it takes to ascend to the heights Dawn Staley has achieved."

Dalhia Lloyd, EPIC for Girls Board President, expressed her sentiments, "Sports instilled in me the value of teamwork and collaboration. It's shaped my professional journey and personal connections. It's taught me both how to lean on and how to lead."

The spotlighted guest, Dawn Staley, shared pearls of wisdom:

"Earning a win, particularly against male opponents, often comes with resistance. Wear their displeasure as a badge of honor."

"I view myself as a merchant of dreams. When you embrace this role, you pour into others with a zeal that's uncontainable."

"Your passion should be the compass of your life. If it doesn't direct your path, it's time to search anew."

"It's essential to maintain focus. Ensure that your circle feeds your passion, for detractors can easily sidetrack you."

Reflecting on guidance for young sportswomen aiming to shine in secondary education and beyond, Staley noted, "While my youthful days were heavily skewed towards basketball, I now realize the essence of balance. My counsel to young athletes today is to relish life's varied offerings."

On allyship, she emphasized, "Silence, especially during challenging times, is not an option. It's vital to voice your perspective and then actively engage in listening."

The inaugural "An EPIC Day," steered by EPIC for Girls, has undoubtedly raised the bar for events championing equal opportunities in sports. With champions like Dawn Staley and the ever-supportive EPIC community at the helm, the horizon looks bright for aspirant sportswomen.

---

#### **About EPIC for Girls**

EPIC for Girls is dedicated to empowering girls of color through sports, education, and mentorship. We level the playing field; provide black and brown girls with the tools and resources needed to build confidence and develop essential life skills.

**To request an interview or learn more about EPIC for Girls and their programs, please contact Josefina Loza at [office@lozafina.com](mailto:office@lozafina.com) or visit their website at [epicgirls.org](http://epicgirls.org)**