



PGA

Michigan Section

BIO OF SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATE

Name of Nominee: Dean Marks

Year Elected to Membership: 1997

Award Nominated for: Player Development

Briefly describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award:

As Director of Golf for the 3 golf courses owned by the City of Kalamazoo, it's important that our facilities are welcoming and accessible to everyone. Sometimes player development isn't just about creating new golfers, it's about retaining the current number of golfers. The Kalamazoo golf courses have been in serious financial trouble and could have easily closed in recent years. I've spent the last 5 years doing everything I can to keep the courses open, in good condition, and affordable to play. Our Red Arrow Golf Course is a 9 hole par 3 located downtown that only charges \$5 for adults, \$4 for students, and \$3 for kids and is home to the Kalamazoo Junior Golf Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that offers quality golf experiences for area juniors at affordable rates to over 400 youth per year. KJGA became a First Tee LINK site in 2016 and has been able to expand its reach to inner city youth who would not normally have access to golf. I have been director of the KJGA since 2005.

While I haven't been able to introduce the game of golf to hundreds of people per year through programs like Get Golf Ready like I did in years past, I've been able to focus my efforts on expanding the Kalamazoo Junior Golf Association, teaching patients at the VA Hospital through the PGA HOPE program, and I am committed to doing my part in keeping the Kalamazoo City golf courses open to help maintain the current number of golfers involved in the game.

PGA Certified Professional in Instruction 2009

Michigan PGA Junior Golf Leader award 2007, 2012

TPI Certified Level 2 Junior Coach 2010

US Kids Top 50 Kids Teacher 2008, 2009, 2010

US Kids Master Kids Teacher 2011

US Kids Certified Coach 2012

Kalamazoo College Women's Golf Coach since 2003

First Tee Level 1 Coach 2016