



## PRESS RELEASE

### **ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE TENNIS COURTS IN WENTWORTH, N.C., ONE OF 12 TENNIS FACILITIES HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE AS A 2017 USTA FACILITY AWARD WINNER**

**WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., June 19, 2017** – The USTA has announced that the Rockingham Community College tennis courts in Wentworth, N.C., are one of 12 winners in the 36<sup>th</sup> annual USTA Facility Awards program, which recognizes excellence in the construction and/or renovation of tennis facilities throughout the country. Rockingham Community College will be honored at the Next Generation: A Tennis Innovation Workshop at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, FL, Oct. 11-15.

In the summer of 2016, Rockingham Community College (RCC) partnered with the Rockingham County Tennis Association to revitalize tennis in the county by resurfacing its six courts, becoming the cornerstone of renovated athletic facilities at the college. In addition to being a site for educational courses, the courts are used by local high school tennis teams and the community. The courts are the first location in Rockingham County where adult and youth tennis instruction is available to all community members – no membership required.

The college was able to pull together funding for the resurfacing from a variety of sources to augment a bequest. In May, RCC and the Rockingham County Tennis Association hosted one of 20 "Family Tennis Night on the Courts" events across the South to help USTA Southern test-market strategies to reach non-playing families and promote local tennis programs to a new audience.

"Great tennis facilities like the tennis courts at Rockingham Community College help us to grow the game at the grass-roots level, and we are proud to recognize them for their ongoing impact on the sport of tennis," said Kurt Kamperman, USTA Chief Executive Community Tennis and the USTA National Campus. "Rockingham Community College has embraced many of our tennis initiatives and kept the sport at the forefront of its community each year."

To be considered for an award, facilities must be under the jurisdiction of a park and recreation department, an educational institution, a nonprofit corporation or be a private or commercially owned and operated facility that offers both USTA and public programming designed to help grow tennis.

Facilities were judged on the following criteria: overall layout and adaptation to site; excellence of court surface and lights; ease of maintenance; accommodations for players, spectators and press/officials; aesthetics; graphics (including the use of signs and landscaping); amenities such as casual seating for spectators, food services and social areas; and the facilities' participation in USTA programs.

Nominated facilities were voted on in the following categories: **Public Courts** that are either small tennis centers with 2-10 courts or large tennis centers with 11 or more

courts; **Educational Institutions**; and **Private Facilities** that support the USTA and other “growth of the game” programs open to the public.

All 2017 award winners will receive a wall plaque and an all-weather sign, which can be mounted at the facility. Certificates of award will be made available to park and recreation departments, schools and those professionals responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the facility. In addition, a one-year complimentary membership to the USTA will be awarded to each winning facility.

The 2017 USTA Facility Awards Program winners are:

**Public Courts: Small Tennis Centers (2 to 10 courts)**

Ida Stone Jones Community Tennis Center, Bristol, Tenn.  
Huether Family Match Pointe, Sioux Falls, SD

**Public Courts: Large Tennis Centers (11 or more courts)**

Cooper Creek Tennis Center, Columbus, Ga.  
Bitsy Grant Tennis Center, Atlanta, Ga.  
Rancho Penasquitos Tennis Center, San Diego, Calif.  
Upper Main Line YMCA, Berwyn, Penn.  
Peachtree City Tennis Center, Peachtree, Ga.

**Educational Institution**

Rockingham Community College Tennis Courts, Wentworth, N.C.

**Private Facilities**

Dataw Island Club Tennis Center, St. Helena Island, S.C.  
Overland Park Racquet Club, Overland Park, Kan.  
Bentwood Country Club, San Angelo, Texas (Featured Facility)  
Cape Fear Country Club, Wilmington, N.C.

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**The USTA** is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level -- from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. A not-for-profit organization with more than 715,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. It owns and operates the US Open, the highest-attended annual sporting event in the world, and launched the US Open Series, linking seven summer WTA and ATP World Tour tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns approximately 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S. and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games. The USTA's philanthropic entity, the USTA Foundation, provides grants and scholarships in addition to supporting tennis and education programs nationwide to benefit under-resourced youth through the National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) network. For more information about the USTA, go to [USTA.com](http://USTA.com) or follow the official accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat.

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