

## NBA Super Star LeBron James nominated as a 2023 Favorite Father for Recognition at International Fatherhood Conference

LeBron James, who grew up in Akron,
Ohio, without his dad, has been
nominated as a 2023 Favorite Father by Summit County, Ohio officials.

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believe LeBron James's
greatest achievement is as
an outstanding father."

Dr. Jeffery Johnson

Fatherhood Planning Committee is excited to announce that NBA Superstar <u>LeBron James</u> is one of over 50 fathers nominated to receive 2023 Favorite Father recognition on June 6, 2023, during the Opening Reception of the 25th Annual International Fatherhood Conference at the <u>ProFootball Hall of Fame</u> Village in Canton, Ohio. Public officials nominated him in Summit County, Ohio, including the City of Akron, where Mr. James was born.

The nation's most influential leaders and practitioners assembled in the fatherhood and family-serving fields will discuss why and how fathers matter to children, families,

and communities. In addition to Pro Football's best, who will anchor the conference, speakers include Clarence Carter, Secretary Tennessee Department of Human Services, who is preparing to launch, the nation's largest statewide fatherhood initiative this Fall; Dr. Wade Horn, Managing Director, Deloitte and former Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services, who led the effort to create the first government grant program promoting fatherhood and healthy marriage; Dr. Ronald B. Mincy, Maurice Russell Professor, School of Social Work, Columbia University, who as a Ford Foundation Program Officer, led the effort among philanthropic organizations to support community-based fatherhood programs that target low-income dads desiring better jobs and support to be successful fathers, and one of the nation's top fatherhood researchers, Seth Chamberlain, current Branch Chief, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services, overseeing a \$150 million dollar annual government grant program to support local and state efforts in fatherhood and healthy marriage/relationship education programs that provide services to thousands of economically challenged fathers and families; Kenn Harris, Vice President for Engagement & Community

Partnerships and Director of Healthy Start Technical Assistance & Support Center, who is leading the federal maternal and child health effort to expand services to include fathers in improving childbirth outcomes through the 101 Healthy Start Programs nationwide; and Kimberly Dent, Executive Director of the Ohio Fatherhood Commission, the nation's only state legislative initiative providing funding for local fatherhood programs. The conference will include over 60 speakers and workshop presenters offering expertise and evidencedbased practices in responsible fatherhood programming, family strengthening and healthy relationships, and innovative human and social services programs to improve father engagement.



Finally, the conference will include its annual Spirit of Fatherhood Hall of Fame Luncheon and induct trailblazers in advancing fatherhood policy, research, practice, and leadership. This year's inductees include Mr. Jerry Tello (Pioneer Award), Director, National Compadres Network, San Jose, CA; Dr. Deborah Austin (Woman In Fatherhood Leadership Award), Director of ReachUp, Tampa, Florida; Mr. Robert Taylor (Community Practitioner Award), President of The New Life Center, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Derrick Gordon (Research Scholar Award), Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director, Research, Policy, and Program on Male Development, The Consultation Center, Yale University; Dr. Rufus Lynch (Government Leadership Award), Chair of The Strong Families Commission, Philadelphia, PA; and Mr. Derek Phillips (Fatherhood Leadership Award), CEO and Founder of Real Dads Network, New York, New York.

For conference registration information, please visit www.npclfathersandfamilies.org.

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