



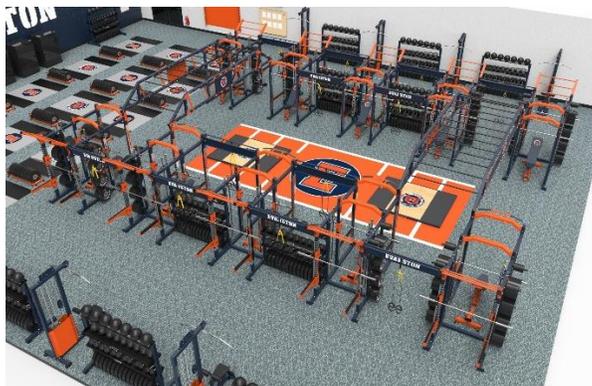
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 30, 2019

### **ETHS alum pledges \$330,000 for new Wellness & Performance Center**



The Evanston Township High School Foundation announced it has received a pledge of \$330,000 in support of a new strength and conditioning center. The gift comes from Michael B. Arrington, ETHS graduate of the Class of 1961 and former varsity football player.

When it opens in the fall, the new facility will be named the Michael B. Arrington Wellness & Performance Center. "All of us at ETHS are truly grateful to Mike Arrington," said ETHS District 202 Superintendent Eric Witherspoon. "His generosity will benefit all students as we expand our wellness and athletic opportunities."

The facility will serve all ETHS students who take physical education (PE) classes and participate in sports training programs. The ETHS Foundation announced the funding initiative this school year to replace an outdated weight room with a center that is equipped to serve students with varied physical abilities and a wide range of strength, size, and biomechanical differences.

Excited to hear about the renovation at ETHS, Arrington compared conditioning centers at other area schools and made a commitment to a facility with the best possible equipment and a dynamic aesthetic that speaks to Wildkit pride. "I'm honored to provide this gift to my alma mater," remarked Arrington, an entrepreneur and real estate investor who founded Arrington Travel in 1969. The company grew into the largest single-stockholder corporate travel management firm in the United States. "The new facility will without a doubt be the finest high school facility of its kind in Illinois," he added. "It will allow ETHS athletes, as well as the entire student body, an opportunity to achieve optimum results for peak performance."



*ETHS Alumnus and donor Michael B. Arrington '61*

Designed with school pride in mind, the center will have an open floor plan and will feature modern, adaptable cardio equipment and training stations. ETHS Athletic Director Chris Livatino anticipates the far reaching and long-lasting impact of Arrington's generosity, "The new Michael B. Arrington Wellness & Performance Center may be the most significant facility improvement we've ever made towards increasing the performance of all of our athletic programs at ETHS."

With a personal mantra of "expect victory", Arrington looks to set up students for success with their fitness goals and their pursuit of "state championships in every sport we participate in."

In conjunction with opening the new Wellness & Performance Center, ETHS recently hired a strength and conditioning specialist to work in tandem with physical education teachers and coaches on individualized fitness plans for each student. "All physical education courses will have access to a facility that allows for differentiated instruction and adaptations for all learners, including those with disabilities," noted Marie Livatino, ETHS PE Department Chair, who has been working to develop curriculum that meets equity goals. Also, more than 200 ETHS students are enrolled in Sports Specific Training, a new PE option for athletes who want to take their athletic performance to the next level.

"This is the latest in a series of transformative gifts to the high school," says Joanne Bertsche, ETHS Foundation Executive Director. "Our alumni value their ETHS experience and are dedicated to advancing every corner of the campus for today's students."

For more information about the ETHS Foundation and funding initiatives, visit [www.supporteths.org](http://www.supporteths.org).