



## NEWS RELEASE

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### IRVINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION TO HONOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AT SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE GALA

**IRVINE, Calif. – August 28, 2014** – ABC News Correspondent Aditi Roy, singer songwriter Nilu and the late Dr. Kevin Armstrong will be honored as distinguished alumni of the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) at Irvine Public Schools Foundation’s 5th annual *Spirit of Excellence Gala* on Saturday, September 27, 2014. The event will be hosted by Jim Rome, host of *The Jim Rome Show* on CBS Sports Radio, *ROME* on CBS Sports Network, and *Jim Rome on Showtime*. Rome is a longtime supporter of IPSF and is also chairing the event along with IPSF Board of Trustees member Grace Lin. The event brings out local celebrities and community leaders, with former NFL quarterback and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Warren Moon, Olympic Gold medalist Jason Lezak, and City of Irvine Mayor Dr. Steven Choi among those already confirmed to attend.

“The Spirit of Excellence Awards honor graduates of Irvine schools whose education in our local public schools was a foundation for their future success,” said IPSF President and CEO Neda Eaton. “We are proud to add this year’s recipients to our distinguished list of honorees, which has also included *Saturday Night Live* cast member Nasim Pedrad, Academy Award nominee Annie Mumolo and renowned jazz pianist Jeremy Siskind.”

The 2014 Rising Star Award will be presented to Nilu, a 2007 graduate of Woodbridge High School. Named “Best New Artist of 2013” by OC Weekly, Nilu is a singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who draws inspiration from classical, soul, chamber, Persian and rock music to create a compelling chamber pop soundscape that has one foot in her classical training and another in the rock and soul music she continues to discover. She will also perform at the event.

ABC News Correspondent Aditi Roy graduated from University High School in 1992. She went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in political science from UC Berkeley and Stanford and a graduate degree in journalism from Columbia. In 2012, she earned an M.B.A from Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Roy will receive the 2014 Spirit of Excellence Award in the Arts at the gala.

Aditi joined NBC10 Philadelphia in May of 2002. In 2011 and early 2012, she filled in as a correspondent for NBC News, reporting for The Today Show, Nightly News, and MSNBC. In 2011, she worked as a fill-in correspondent out of the NBC News Burbank bureau. She joined ABC News Los Angeles in July 2013 and reports for all ABC News broadcasts and platforms. Her work has been recognized with numerous honors including eight Emmy nominations in categories ranging from “Best Hard News Reporter” to “Best Feature Reporter.”

Dr. Kevin Armstrong was a member of Woodbridge High School’s first graduating class in 1983, where he served as Associated Student Body president and was a member of the football, basketball and cross country teams. He received his bachelor’s degree from Princeton University where he was co-captain of the football team. He earned a medical degree and completed his residency in Orthopedic Surgery at UCLA and completed the Sports and Shoulder Orthopedic Fellowship Program at the University of Pittsburgh under the direction of the esteemed Dr. Freddie Fu.

Dr. Armstrong returned to Orange County to accept a position as Clinical Professor and Orthopedic Surgeon at UCI Medical Center. In addition to this position, he worked with the Orthopedic Biomechanics Laboratory at the VA Hospital in Long Beach. Dr. Armstrong also devoted his time and talent as a volunteer team physician for Century High School and Saddleback High School. He was featured in the June 24, 2002 issue of People Magazine as one of the "50 Most Eligible Bachelors. "

Still in the early stages of his medical career, Dr. Kevin Armstrong died suddenly in May 2005 of a rare heart condition. The Kevin Armstrong, M.D. Memorial Sports Foundation was established in celebration of his life and continues to serve his belief that students of modest economic means could achieve higher goals if they received the proper support, inspiration and opportunities. IPSF will honor Dr. Armstrong's legacy with the Spirit of Excellence in Leadership Award at the gala.

The Spirit of Excellence Gala will be held at KIA Motors headquarters in Irvine, CA with support from Presenting Sponsor Great Park Neighborhoods. The evening will include red carpet arrivals, cocktail reception, live and silent auction, fine dining and entertainment. IPSF's gala has sold out each year since inception and is expected to bring together more than 400 business, civic and community leaders to raise funds in support of more than 30,000 students in IUSD.

A limited number of sponsorships and tickets remain for this marquee event. For information about sponsorship opportunities, to donate items for the auction, or to purchase tickets, please contact Michelle LeVasseur at [mlevasseur@ipsf.net](mailto:mlevasseur@ipsf.net) or (946) 265-6412.

#### **About Irvine Public Schools Foundation**

Irvine Public Schools Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to excellence in schools. Its mission is to enrich the educational experience of each child in every school. They achieve this by providing programs, raising funds, and uniting the community in support of educational excellence. For more information, visit [IPSF.net](http://IPSF.net).

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