



Dear members of the SHAPE America community,

I sincerely hope that you, and your family, are safe, healthy, and well in this challenging time.

I am writing to you today to share some news regarding one of SHAPE America's most prestigious awards. After a great deal of thoughtful, informative conversation, the SHAPE America Board of Directors voted to change the name of the Mabel Lee award at the August 8, 2020 board meeting. This award is given each year to recognize our younger members who have demonstrated outstanding potential in scholarship, teaching, and/or professional leadership.

Established in 1976, the Mabel Lee Award has recognized the achievements of many incredible and inspiring professionals over the years. It was named for Mabel Lee, the first female president (1931 – 32) of the American Physical Education Association (as SHAPE America was known then) and a leader in athletics.

What we have come to understand in recent months is that Lee's documented opinions on homosexuality and race often reflected positions that did not support the advancement of people of color and members of the LGBTQ community in the profession. Today, these opinions do not reflect the inclusive and diverse values held by SHAPE America and the many nominees, winners, and supporters of this prestigious award. After a deep and thoughtful discussion, the board made the decision to select a new name which more closely aligns with our national organization's vision of inclusivity and respect for diversity.

As SHAPE America enters our 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, this award remains as vital and distinguished as ever. It is with the excitement and energy of our community that we will select a name that celebrates the current values of our profession.

This winter, SHAPE America board and staff will undertake a process that ensures our diverse community has an opportunity to express their ideas and opinions.

We anticipate this process concluding with an announcement of a new name in advance of the 2021 National Convention.

As we work through this process, the nomination and selection process remains the same, and we will continue to celebrate and support our young professionals in every way possible.

Finally, please know this change is the continuation of an ongoing and deep review process that SHAPE America is undertaking to ensure that our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion is honored and embraced in all facets of the organization.

My thanks to you in advance for your willingness to be a part of this process and contribute your thoughts and ideas regarding a new name (please send them to CEO Stephanie Morris at [smorris@shapeamerica.org](mailto:smorris@shapeamerica.org)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brett" and last name "Fuller" clearly distinguishable.

Brett Fuller  
SHAPE America President