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Connect Sports Named 2017 Corporate Diversity Partner of the Year at the Compete Sports Diversity Awards

Connect Sports will be recognized as the 2017 Corporate Diversity Partner winner during the 8th Annual Compete Sports Diversity Awards, Nov. 10, in Kansas City, Mo. Also known as the Petey Awards, the Compete Magazine event recognizes contributions in “uniting the world through sports.”

Compete Magazine specifically highlights the positive effect of Connect Sports’ work with the LGBTQ Sports Coalition, which connects LGBTQ sports planners with national suppliers.

“This award is an incredible honor for us,” says Patrick Higgins, Connect’s Vice President of Meetings and Events. “We pride Connect Sports on being at the forefront of working with the LGBTQ sporting community to bring out the best in all people through events. Rest assured, this recognition only reinforces our commitment to this important mission.”

Eric Carlyle, SDL, CEO of Compete’s parent company, MOL, notes Connect Sports is a pioneer in the sports tourism industry. “Connect was selected for this prestigious award because of their early support of the sports diversity movement,” says Carlyle. “We are proud to honor Connect because it was the first sports tourism entity to acknowledge the importance of LGBTQ+ events.”

Connect Sports’ recognition comes just ahead of the company’s [annual event](#) in New Orleans Aug. 21-23. The tradeshow brings together the best sports planners and suppliers under one roof to create meaningful business with lasting affects for communities nationwide. Connect Sports is also proud to host its 2018 LGBTQ Summit in Portland, Oregon, Feb. 4-6.

Past winners of Petey Awards include JP Morgan Chase, MillerCoors, Lexus and Nike, among others. This year’s awards show will benefit the AIDS Services Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series 2019. For more information on the awards, click sportsdiversityawards.com.

ABOUT CONNECT

Connect is a leader in the meetings, events, travel and tourism industry. Specializing in destination marketing, the company produces digital programs, online and mobile solutions, meetings business and travel magazines, trade shows and consumer events, travel guides for newspapers and leisure magazines, and destination information which is distributed through broadcast and custom programs. Connect, formerly known as Collinson Media & Events, introduced the popular Marketplace format to the meetings industry and now produces national shows for meeting planners in the Corporate, Expo, Sports, Diversity, Association and Faith sectors as well as other state- and region-specific meetings- and hospitality-focused events. More information about the company's brands and services is available at connectmeetings.com.

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