



2017 USTA NC Community Tennis Development Workshop Guest Speakers
"Inspiring Communities to Play"

Andrew Feldman

Andrew serves as the Director of Community Development with USTA Southern, where he works with the state offices and CTAs to promote community tennis opportunities. Prior to that he coordinated volunteer development efforts with the national USTA office for eleven years. He has a master's in education as well as an MBA in strategic management. Before working with tennis, Andrew taught high school, worked in non-profit, and managed volunteer programming for college students. He is originally from New York but has Southern roots in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

Leah Friedman

Leah is the National Skills Manager for the USTA. Her responsibilities include creating the National Skills Challenge, on court demonstrations, and establishing Net Generation activations and events around the country. Prior to her move to Orlando, Leah was the Junior Development Coordinator for the Chicago District Tennis Association. She was dedicated to working with local programs to educate coaches and parents in junior development while also increasing the number of players on the courts. Her passion is creating programs in underserved communities and believes the sport teaches lessons that go far beyond the courts. She is the co-founder of The Ace Project, an NJTL in Chicago and Baltimore. For her commitment to the game, Leah has been recognized with honors by the USTA, PTR, and Tennis Industry Magazine.

Miguel Garcia

Miguel is an international consultant based in Houston, Texas. He previously served as the National Director of Field Operations for the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). While at PCA he supervised the link between national headquarters and local chapters. In this capacity he groomed a growing number of chapters as they developed and matured their respective operational platforms. This included resource development, partnerships, program delivery, board engagement and local staffing. Prior to joining PCA, Miguel led two local non-profit organizations; served in both local and federal government; and created a new portfolio while serving as a deputy director and program officer at the Ford Foundation in New York City. His work with the USTA Foundation includes serving as a principal architect and lead account executive of the nationally acclaimed NJTL capacity building initiative now funding and enabling a second cohort. Additionally, he is a contributor to the NJTL Excellence Teams program providing character and virtue development curricula. His program expertise includes community development; youth development; public space and recreation; cultural development; urban planning, public health and social investment. He is an avid tennis and martial arts competitor.

Jennifer Gregg

Jennifer is committed to helping others reach their full potential, both personally and professionally. As a non-profit Executive, Jennifer uses her experience and knowledge to encourage others to develop and enhance their leadership skills. She facilitates continuing education courses nationally, covering various topics related to volunteerism, personal and organizational growth, leadership and team building. Having 22 years of Association Management and USTA knowledge coupled with the ASAE CAE designation – Jennifer brings a unique blend of experience and information to share with all participants.

Dr. Elizabeth Odera

Liz, celebrated as a ChangeMakeHer, one of the world's most influential and inspiring women of 2011 (Ashoka ChangeMaker), was knighted with the medal of French Order of Youth and Sports by the French Government, and Head of State Commendation (HSC) from the Government of Kenya, for her ground breaking work in development of youth sports in Kenya, and her commitment to excellence in education. "Princy", as the kids call her (or "Dr. Liz" as she is known by everyone else), has been involved in the education and training of more than 11,000 youth in various sports, including basketball, tennis, football, rugby, athletics and swimming at [Sadili Oval Sports Academy](#) and [Malezi Foundation](#) and where she de-mystified tennis and opened opportunities to about 5,000 children from poor and rich communities alike. Dr. Odera and her team received the reward of the Spirit of the Land of the Olympic Games of the Salt Lake City in 2002, the G-ForSE in Japan in 2003. Odera has led an extensive youth program in Kibera (Africa's largest slum) that includes a schools' tennis for better health, and weekly basketball training, which, through a global partnership, is expected to top 2100 children below 10 years by April 2019. Liz also developed a tennis after-school education project, which earned an honorary USTA-NJTL membership. Liz has successfully coached a large number of juniors, who have represented their respective national teams, played international tennis events (including French, Wimbledon and US Open), earned into WTA points, and continue to earn important scholarships to colleges and high schools in Africa, Europe and USA. She also consults for collegiate tennis. A recipient of the Humanitarian of the Year in 2004 in South Carolina, Liz is a PTR International Clinician and Tester and Provider for Kenya. Liz is the founder of the national [Girl Power Clubs Africa](#) program (which Serena Williams has visited twice) that uses sports to build leadership amongst Kenyan 3740 girls. Liz extended her mentoring to sports organizations, and was recently honored as Global Ambassador for Sport and Development by [sportanddev.org](#) and the Swiss Academy for Development. Her first book, [Sports For Life](#) is available on Amazon.

Liz was one of Kenya's top tennis players between 1976 and 1986, when she even played tennis circuits briefly in Europe before choosing to take up academics more seriously, eventually majoring in molecular biology and sports science. Liz provides consulting services in tennis and management and is currently living in Durham, NC, with her two children, Joab and Teresa, who successfully played college tennis. You can contact Liz through her [Facebook Page](#) or liz@lizodera.com

Julia Thomas, MPA

Julia serves as the Campaign Director for the United Way of Greater Greensboro. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration/Nonprofit Management from NC State University.