



Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport

The first and only one of its kind in the world, the Tucker Center is an interdisciplinary research center leading a pioneering effort to examine how sport and physical activity affect the lives of girls and women, their families, and communities.

Research has discovered important connections between participation in sport and physical activity and healthy development, yet most sports-related research has focused on men. The Tucker Center is changing this by exploring how sport and exercise influence women's physical, psychological, and social development, as well as how social, cultural, and economic factors influence girls' and women's participation in sports, recreation, and physical activity.



The Tucker Center has three equal and interrelated goals:

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH Our affiliated scholars work as interdisciplinary research teams focused on cutting-edge issues, challenges, and opportunities within sports contexts.

RESEARCH THAT COUNTS We focus on research that directly impacts the experience of girls and women, their families, and communities within sports, recreation, and physical activity settings.

EDUCATION Community outreach, civic engagement, and teaching and mentoring students are important components of the Tucker Center. We sponsor a Distinguished Lecture Series in which nationally recognized scholars and educators share their findings and insights with policymakers, students, and families. We also develop educational materials and serve as a resource center for private and public organizations, educational institutions, media outlets, and the general public.





Advancing interdisciplinary research and public engagement

The Tucker Center is housed in the School of Kinesiology within the College of Education and Human Development. The college—recognized nationally as a leader in teaching, research, and outreach—encompasses nine departments and over 20 research and service centers.

Dorothy Tucker established the Dorothy McNeill and Elbridge Ashcraft Tucker Chair for Women in Exercise Science and Sport in 1993. This endowed chair—the first of its kind in the world—is the cornerstone upon which the Tucker Center is built. Dr. Tucker graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1945, majoring in recreation leadership. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Minnesota Foundation.



Mary Jo Kane is a sport sociologist who received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. A full professor, Kane is the center director and the first recipient of the Tucker Endowed Chair. She is also an internationally recognized scholar on media portrayals of female athletes.

How you can help

The Tucker Center provides funding for scholarships, fellowships, and research that will make a difference in the lives of girls and women. If you would like more information about how you can provide financial support for this pioneering effort, please contact the college's Development Office at 612-625-1310.

To find out how you can get involved, contact:



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**The College of Education
& Human Development**
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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educator and employer.*

Photo of tennis player courtesy of CAAWS – Marlene Hielema Photography.



Improving the Sporting Lives of Girls and Women



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