

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**August 24th, 2021**

**The Esports Trade Association Presents the 2021 EsportsNext Fall Conference  
From September 12th to the 15th in Chicago Illinois**

Registration is open for the Fall 2021 EsportsNext Conference. Professionals in the gaming industry, esports teams, and sponsors of gamers, streamer, and league organizers will meet in the Hyatt Centric Chicago on the Magnificent Mile—633 North Saint Clair Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611 United States—from September 12th to the 15th.

Players ready to take their careers in the gaming industry to the next level will meet with the movers and shakers in the esports ecosystem. Marketing agencies, television companies, sponsorship firms, publishers, VC firms, venue managers—EsportsNext brings it all under one roof.

An [amazing line-up](#) of speakers, from Erik Anderson of FaZe Clan to John Cash of HBCU Esports & Gaming, will be present at the Hyatt Center over the course of the conference. Do you have an innovative idea, product, service, or social enterprise solution? Do you believe it could be the basis for a successful new start-up in the esports community? [The ESTA Elevator Pitch](#) workshop is the perfect opportunity to submit your idea for the chance to present it to a crowd of industry professionals.

Your personalized experience starts with your wristband—1 day passes are available, and becoming a member of the Esports Trade Association saves on your ticket price. By registering for this event, participants agree to receive email communications from ESTA and give permission to ESTA to publish any photographs or videos for educational and promotional purposes without compensation.

### **Speakers**

- Erik Anderson - Head of Esports - FaZe Clan
- Jimmy Baratta - Chief Gaming Officer - Holodeck Ventures
- Paige Bonomi - Director, New Business Development, Esports - SPORTFIVE
- Paul Brewer - Chief Revenue Officer - Rival
- Mike Bynum - Senior Associate - FedTech
- John Cash - Founder & Professor - HBCU Esports & Gaming
- Charles Conroy - Vice President, Gaming - The Switch
- Jeff Cohen - Vice President Strategy & Investor Relations - Esports Entertainment Group
- John Davidson - Board Chair - Esports Trade Association
- Rebecca de Freitas - Director, Customer Engagement - Hargrove, LLC

- Brett Diamond - Chief Operating Officer - Version1 + Minnesota RØKKR
- John Drozd - Medical Psychologist - MCB Clinical Research Centers
- Leslie Fitzsimmons - Board Member - ESTA
- Anthony Gaud - CEO and Founder - Gaud-Hammer Gaming Group
- Joey Gawrysiak - Program Director - Shenandoah University
- Scott Greenberg - Co-Founder - Smash INTERACTIVE
- Ryan Harbinson - Director Of Business Development - Clearbridge Branding Agency
- Sarah Hill - CEO & Chief Storyteller - Healium
- Jenna Johnson - Director of Partnership Strategy & Activation - Version1 + Minnesota RØKKR
- Rob Johnson - CEO - CSL Esports
- Gregory Kim - Senior Director of Business Operations - Madison Square Garden Sports Corp.
- Joanie Kraut - Chief Executive Officer - Women in Games International (WIGI)
- Chris Lai - Co-Founder - Smash INTERACTIVE
- Taryn McCarty - Head of Community Development - Nerd Street Gamers
- Lagen Nash - Chief Revenue Officer - Misfits Gaming Group
- Josh Otero - Co-Founder and CEO - NutriGMR
- Ben Paro - Senior Sales Director - Gaming & Esports, Consumer and B2B Tech - YouGov
- Roger Payne - Key Account Director - YouGov
- Chris Postell - Business Development - Game Arena
- Cameron Reed - Executive Producer of Esports and Broadcast - SURGE Esports Arena
- James Santore - Strategic Partnerships Manager - Fubo Gaming
- Austin Smith - Co-Founder & CEO - Mission Control GG
- Justin Stefanovic - Senior Vice President - Misfits Gaming
- Wim Stocks - Head of Partnerships & Commercial - Belong Gaming & Vindex
- Dustin Sweeney - Associate Director - HKS, Inc.
- Megan Van Petten - Managing Director - Esports Trade Association
- Greg Via - Head of Partnerships - Cloud9
- Donna Walters - Founder - California State University (CSU) Esports Collective
- April Welch - Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives - Illinois Institute of Technology

We request that attendees who wish to book rooms do so before August 30th, 2021.

Media inquiries are welcome. Please contact **Megan Van Petten** at [info@esportsta.org](mailto:info@esportsta.org) for press credentials and more information

### **What is the Esports Trade Association?**

[The ESTA](#) promotes, protects, and advances the broader interests of the esports community. We provide forward-thinking professional development programs, networking opportunities, relevant industry research, and valuable tools and resources to the membership.

### **Agenda**

Sunday, September 12

Chicago Cubs vs. San Francisco Giants - Wrigley Field Rooftop Event with an amazing, indoor/outdoor, million-dollar view of the game

Monday, September 13

Afternoon Welcome Reception - Meet and Greet, Quick Pitch, Free Play Area, Networking with Cocktails, Hot and Cold Hors d'oeuvres

Tuesday, September 14

The Main Event - Breakfast, Panel Sessions, Lunch, Elevator Pitch Competition, Free Play Area, Panel Sessions, Silent Auction, Networking/Happy Hour

Wednesday, September 15

Morning Closing Events - Breakfast, Research Presentation, Panel Sessions, Award Ceremony, Free Play Area

### **Sponsor List**

Title Sponsor

- Morgan Stanley - Global Sports & Entertainment

Platinum Sponsor

- Chyron

Gold Sponsor

- Bailey Glasser LLP
- Surge
- Smash Interactive

Silver Sponsor

- Esports Network
- Tap2Interact
- Kane Russell Coleman Logan
- JKJ - Johnson Kendall Johnson

Contributors

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- AVI SPL

- YouGov
- I Play Games
- Clearbridge
- Hyatt Centric - Chicago Magnificent Mile
- WIGI

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