



**Palm Beach Gardens** - The Gateway PGA section is the recipient of the 2017 Herb Graffis Award as a PGA of America Section that has showed tireless dedication towards growing the game of golf and furthering player development both in their community and on a national level, through the enrichment of their many successful programs. Led by President Benjamin Kent, the Gateway PGA Section was recognized as not only the birthplace of PGA REACH but for additional programs that have further served the greater St. Louis-area, Southern Illinois and the eastern half of Missouri by targeting youth, military, Diversity & Inclusion, and more. The Gateway PGA Section has become a leader in utilizing the platform of golf to usher in growth, positive perception and overall impact. Through industry summits and fundraising events, CEOs and Presidents from each of the major golf Associations, as well as sports icons Ozzie Smith, Hank Aaron, Bo Jackson, Julius Erving, Cal Ripken Jr., Bob Gibson, Reggie Jackson and more have taken part in Gateway PGA initiatives. In the last four years, greater than \$1.5 million was generated to help at-risk youth stay in school, while simultaneously bringing PGA Professional instruction to more than 180 Veterans year-round. The vision of PGA REACH and the tireless efforts of Gateway PGA Members helped secure the 100th PGA Championship, which will be contested at Bellerive Country Club in 2018.