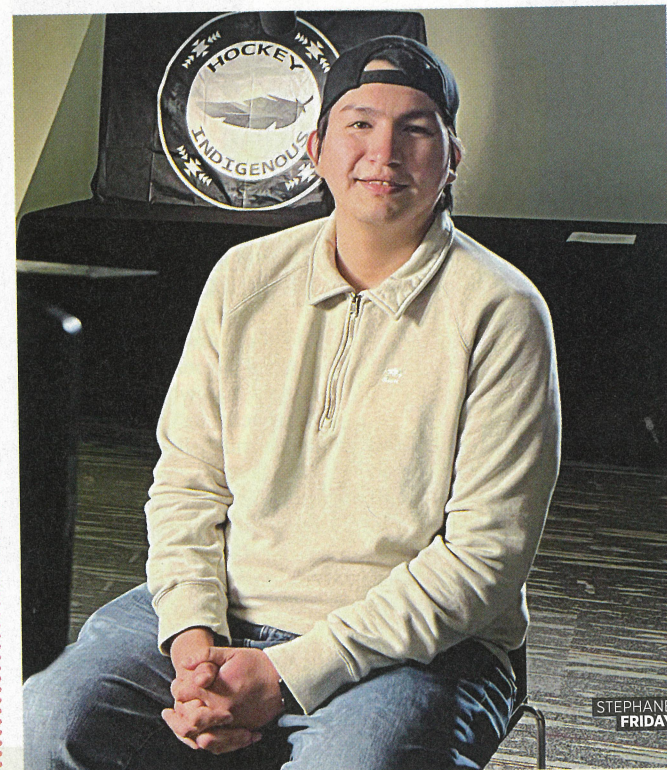




ground up. Those efforts include removing socioeconomic restrictions across the country, as well as social barriers for women and people of color to both play and work in hockey so USA Hockey's membership better reflects the U.S. population. Prior to USA Hockey, Jackson worked in the diversity-and-inclusion department at Nike.

**STEPHANE FRIDAY**  
CO-FOUNDER/CEO, HOCKEY INDIGENOUS

Stephane Friday and co-founder Abigail Linklater are bringing recognition and support to Indigenous players at all levels through Hockey Indigenous. Fostering representation, awareness and creating community among In-



**ALEXANDRIA BRIGGS-BLAKE**  
PRESIDENT, TUCKER ROAD PARENT HOCKEY ORGANIZATION

Recognized this year by the Carnegie Initiative, Alexandria Briggs-Blake leads a group of dedicated parents who strive to "make hockey accessible for

children of all backgrounds." Working to support the Tucker Road Ducks, who play in Prince George's County, Md., Briggs-Blake helped raise over \$20 million to rebuild a new arena for the predominantly Black hockey organization. Since then, she's turned her efforts to reducing registration fees to ensure youth from any socioeconomic background can play hockey.

**STEVE NEARMAN**  
PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE GREAT BLIZZARDS OF MASSACHUSETTS SPECIAL HOCKEY

There is no underestimating the impact of building programs at the grassroots level. The ripple effect can be tremendous, which is what we're now seeing with Steve Nearman's Great Blizzards of Massachusetts. When Nearman moved to Massachusetts, he saw a need for his



son and other youth with intellectual or other disabilities who were looking to play hockey. Years later, the Great Blizzards are thriving with "an emphasis on blending challenge with fun," bringing "skaters of all skill levels, genders, accommodation requirements and economic backgrounds together in a healthy, confidence-building activity."

**STEVE BAYNES**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CO-FOUNDER, SAVE POND HOCKEY

There is a growing group of advocates working to mitigate and reverse the impacts of cli-



mate change on hockey and hockey's impact on the climate. One of the leaders in that fight is Save Pond Hockey, an organization based in Finland that hosts international events to raise awareness and funds. Steve Baynes is the executive director and helps host dozens of tournaments globally. He also coordinates an ambassador program - featuring notable pro players like PWHL Minnesota's Susanna Tapani and Hall of Famer Jari Kurri - to educate others.

**PERRY-DELPHINE SERAPHIN**  
CO-FOUNDER, TO HOCKEY, WITH LOVE

Creating opportunities for new voices and fans to engage with hockey is a task many claim to be involved in, but Perry-Delphine Seraphin is a person actually accomplishing this



feat. Seraphin is a co-founder of To Hockey, With Love X The Professional Hockey Writers Association (PHWA) Writing Mentorship Program. The program looks to bring new and diverse voices to hockey media, pairing aspiring journalists and media members with established outlets and members of the PHWA. A first-generation immigrant in Canada herself, Seraphin is working to erase the lack of opportunities and access members of marginalized communities face in hockey writing.

**TUNISHA SINGLETON, PH.D**  
BOARD PRESIDENT, BLACK GIRL HOCKEY CLUB

As the president of Black Girl Hockey Club's board of directors and co-chair of its leadership committee, Dr. Tunisha Singleton has been integral in helping the organization grow,



build partnerships and provide scholarships to hockey players across North America. As her bio states, Dr. Singleton "aspires to work with more organizations on projects surrounding sports



and society, mental health, multiculturalism, and race/gender/LGBTQ empowerment." She's been a driving factor for the organization's success, in building fan bases and challenging barriers to access for Black fans and participants in hockey.

**ABU HAFEJEE**  
COORDINATOR/VICE-PRESIDENT, SCARBOROUGH MUSLIM BALL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Ball hockey has become the lowest barrier entry point to hockey in recent years with the NHL launching NHL STREET,

and organizations like the Hockey Diversity Alliance running ball-hockey programs. Abu Hafejee, who is a longtime hockey official in the GTHL, is the coordinator for the Scarborough Muslim Ball Hockey Association, carrying on the legacy his father, Saleh, began in 2004. Hafejee works to facilitate youth ball-hockey and introductory ice-hockey programs for first-generation Canadians, specifically from Muslim communities. As an official and leader, he provides representation in the game helping to diversify and bring people of all backgrounds and faiths together through hockey. **H**