

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026 OTHS Hall of Fame Profile: Gale Landers, Class of 1971

Mr. Gale Landers is a 2026 inductee to the Ottawa Township High School (OTHS) Hall of Fame sponsored by the OTHS Educational Foundation.

Landers was the president of the OTHS Class of 1971 and was an outstanding football, basketball, baseball and track athlete at OTHS. He played for the undefeated 1970 football team which entered the Hall of Fame in 2024.

After graduation, Landers attended Western Illinois University (WIU) where he was a member of the baseball team all four years. Landers was inducted into the WIU Athletic Hall of Fame as a member of the 1974 baseball team. He graduated from WIU with a bachelor's degree in business and accounting and a master's degree in athletic administration.

In 1984 Landers co-founded Fitness Formula, Ltd, and is now the sole owner of the company which developed a Chicago area network under the trade name Fitness Formula Clubs that now employs more than 1,000 staff members. Landers has established partnerships and affiliate relationships with Chicago's leading hospitals and physical therapy providers including Rush-Presbyterian St. Lukes Medical Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital's cardiac rehabilitation program and NovaCare Physical Therapy - a subtenant located in seven Fitness Formula Clubs.

Recognized as a national leader in the health and fitness industry, Landers was inducted to the Chicago Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame in 2024 and was named the 2023 Advocate of the Year by the Health and Fitness Association, where he has previously served as board president. He served as a member of the board of directors of the International Health,

Racquet and Sportsclub Association (IHRSA) and served as the IHRSA Board President in 2000.

Landers played a leading role during the COVID pandemic supporting fitness businesses and advancing industry-saving legislation while serving as the Chairman of the launch of the National Health & Fitness Alliance Counsel in 2020.

Landers speaks frequently at fitness conventions and was featured on covers of several industry trade magazines. He founded the FFC Cares Foundation, is an active supporter of Augie's Quest to Cure ALS and serves as a board member of the non-profit 11-10-02 Foundation providing scholarships and grants to students with financial need.

The OTHS Educational Foundation established the Ottawa Township High School Hall of Fame in 2006, focusing on recognition of excellence while a high school student, after leaving OTHS, or a combination of both. While honorees may or may not have attended OTHS, they were significant and accomplished contributors connected to the school district.

The latest Hall of Fame class will be introduced between OTHS basketball games January 23, 2026, in the school's historic Kingman Gym. A ceremony honoring inductees is scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2026, beginning at 4PM in the OTHS auditorium followed by a banquet at the Rivers Edge event center. Tickets are \$45 and may be purchased by contacting Susan MacDonald at smacdonald@ottawahigh.com or Kelly Schmitt at kschmitt@ottawahigh.com.

